

10.0.0
LAW-VISIONS;

O R,

P I L L S.

FOR
MUSEUM
BRITANICUM
POSTERITY.

Corruptissima Respublica, plurimae Leges. Tac.



L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane.*

M.DCC.XXXVI.

21

LAW-TIONS

PILL



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WOOD




WOOD



Case of the Subject a-
 gainst the Proposition here
 complained of. But the
 RIGHT HONOURABLE
 Successors did not always su-

Sir *W* Your commands
 Xcal, in its full latitude;

Knight of the B...
 made, as promise a greater
 H... whenever you a-

 H E following
 Papers can be now
 where so proper
 ly fly for Protection, as to
 You & You who have, on

iv DEDICATION.

all Occasions, like a True
Englishman; asserted the
Cause of the Subject a-
gainst the Oppressions here
complained of. But tho'
Success did not always an-
swer your commendable
Zeal, in its full Latitude;
yet such Beginnings were
made, as promise a greater
Harvest, whenever you a-
gain set about it. To whet
up an Ardour in others,
equal to your own, that
they may go Hand in
Hand with You in the lau-
dable

DEDICATION.

able Undertaking, is the Design of these few Sheets; and if they afford You even but moderate Hints, the World has daily such Experience of your Genius, that it cannot long remain under the least Apprehension of your making a right Improvement: And who, then, can have any Doubt of the Success, when the Interest so frequently boasted of by the contrary Side, will be counterbalanc'd by that of your own. That,

vi DEDICATION.

join'd with a Zeal so often
heretofore highly distin-
guish'd in the present Dis-
pute, must most evidently
strike all Oppressors with
Terror, as it will, on the
other Side, as certainly fill
all those Hearts with an
inexpressible Joy, who have
long, too long, groan'd un-
der the Burden of this Op-
pression. Which will in-
spire into your Breast most
Satisfaction and Pleasure,
cannot be difficult to de-
termine,

DEDICATION. vii
termine, with any that has
had Experience of your
real good Nature and Hu-
manity: Therefore those
who malign the Labour,
will lie under a Necessity
of confessing, that both
these Considerations, uni-
ted, must add, proporti-
onably, to your happy Qui-
etude, and to the common
Satisfaction; and give a
large Encrease to your
Glory upon the Accom-
plishment of the Work;

viii DEDICATION.

for which you will have
the Wishes of all Lovers
of the Weal of their Coun-
try, but of none more than

Your Honour's

Most Obedient,

and Humble Servant,

DIM. SASSON.



P R E F A C E.

THAT a good Design
may be carry'd on un-
der Allegory or Fable,
the Author has more than one Spec-
tator for his Authority; That his
present Design is good, he has the
Authority of Three of the greatest
Men of the last Century: Success
was not their Lot; nor can He
warrant it to be his. However,
no Man in his Wits, when the
order -

A 5 Vessel

PREFACE

Vessel is in Danger, will refuse a Hand to the Pump; for every Man, that here lends a helping Hand, may assure himself of Praise for his good Intention, which is the utmost aim'd at in the Publication of the following Papers.

If the Attempt of a Regulation should have the Misfortune once more to miscarry, the Author is very sensible that He shall spirit up a Parcel of Detractors, that will oppose him with Vehemence (and, very likely, Virulence) as they before have done others: But if, on the other Hand, it should happen that he should have the great good Luck to spirit up a Party of true and real Patriots, who,

P R E F A C E

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who, from the Hints he gives, shall accomplish the Regulation in Question, both in Theory and Practice, he will never trouble Himself at the Efforts of Malice; but patiently support Himself under the Suffrages of the Unbiass'd. And as he has no View of any private Interest of his own, and is not stimulated with so much as even a Dream of any Share of Fame, he will flatter himself, that even such as are ready to find Fault with his Management, or Method, must yet, without all Hesitation, approve his Meaning; which will content and gratify Him every Whitt as well. Nor will he pretend to brag to his
Readers,

Readers, like many of our modern Operators, what a lumping Penny-worth he is going to give them: It will much better please and delight him to hear it said, that Homer is crowded into a Nut-Shell; well assur'd, that tho' Women, and the Vulgar, love to have much for Money, Men of Judgment will always be of Sentiment, that a little, good, is cheaper than a great deal, good for nothing. One Thing he humbly hopes, that Men of Candour will coolly consider, that the Track he treads in is wholly new, no beaten Path; and that if he had treated the Subject meerly in either a Didactick or Polemique Way, few would have

P R E F A C E. xiii

have read it, but such as were inclin'd to sleep: To prevent which, having enough of it beforehand, like a wise modern Statesman, he chose to toss out a Tub to amuse Leviathan, by Way of Allegory. Thence is it you have so much of Dreams, Fables, and Visions, call them which you will; and thence is it that they are so often broken and interrupted, that they may not fatigue and tire the Reader. Nevertheless, as he goes along, that he will not omit to observe, that through every Dream and Page, there runs a Vein, both of the Malady complain'd of, and somewhat of a Medicine towards the Cure: The Application, therefore,

fore,

ADDRESS

*fore, must be left to the Confe-
rate; to whose Sentence he shall
always be ready, entirely to sub-
mit.*

VALE.



ADDRESS



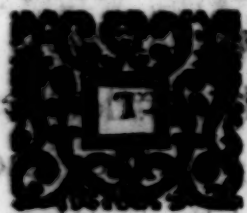
ADDRESSES

TO THE

GENTLEMEN

OF THE

LONG PROFESSION.

 **H. E.** Author of the
following Sheets (if
you will believe me,
and I think I know
him as well as any Man) is no
Enemy to any of your Profession,
so

so long as they Practise, as well as Profess, the Ways of Justice and Equity. He allows the Law not only to be useful, but necessary to the Quiet of the Publick; and is as desirous that every Branch of it should be faithfully put in Execution, as any Member of the Body Politick whatsoever. He readily agrees, for that Purpose, that it is equally expedient, that a moderate Number of Men (whether distinguish'd under the Title of the Society of the Inner Temple, of Gray's Inn, or whatever other Title) should be set apart for the better obtaining Right, and suppressing Wrong. He is so far from

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from being of a Levelling Temper, that he prodigiously admires that Part of our Constitution, that has provided, and ascertain'd, such commendable Encouragements for Men of Integrity and Merit, that he wishes, from the very Bottom of his Heart, they may never be dispens'd to any other. After saying which, you cannot, in Reason, take what he says as a general and indefinite Satire. I myself have heard many of your Order lament the great Uncertainty of the Law: And how is it possible that it should be otherwise, while every Change of Judges changes Precedents; since no-body can tell what his Opinion

xviii ADDRESS.

nion may be that comes next? I have heard others too, where they could freely unburthen their Bosoms, complain of its unweildy *Corpus*; which, say they, like some equally unweildy Member of the Community, who (tho' he struts in Fat) moves intolerable to himself, and hardly tolerable to any that beholds him, is grown too bulky for a thorough Knowledge, even to a Person of an extraordinary Capacity; and therefore, by a very natural Transition, too dangerous, as too precarious (Numbers consider'd) in Respect to the Safety of the People; to honest Men, at least, such as I know you would willingly

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lingly protest, and yet, I fancy, would hardly make use of a dishonourable Trick to preserve, even tho' the Intricacy of the Law should allow you a Handle.

You see then, Gentlemen, you are excluded even the Purlicus of the Satire; tho' I am self-satisfy'd, that even this Concession will not exclude your Concern, and Agreement, for the Necessity of a Reformation as to others. This is all the Author pleads for in your superior Class: And as to Inferiors, tho' he strenuously desires, and labours for a Regulation, in Principle as well as Practice, he knows of no Pur-
gative

gative strong enough (unless it be T—) on this side an Act of Parliament; and a close one too. They boast their Numbers: He grants it woefully considerable; and laments. They call themselves fair Practisers; which, by their own Confession, implies, that there are foul, tho' not sufficiently distinguishable by any Law yet in being. They triumph in an Indulgence (conferr'd upon 'em by some Mistake or other) which has set 'em above the common Course of Law; even where the Executive Part of it would better have distinguish'd Benefactor and Benefaction. Can any Thing less than an Act of Parliament,
Gentlemen,

A D D R E S S . xxi

Gentlemen, put a Period to these National Exuberances? And yet these are not a Title of what the Nation groans under. Their bare-
fac'd Countenance of evil Practices, under the delusive Claim of Fraternity; their slighting of Acts of Parliament, when not consonant to their own vitiated Palates; their notorious joining with Catchpoles and Bailiffs, to depeculate honest, tho' unfortunate People (all which, 'tis true, are touch'd upon in some Part or other of the following Sheets;) and from which I am of Opinion it will be manifest to unprejudic'd Men, that all these cry aloud for a speedy Reform.

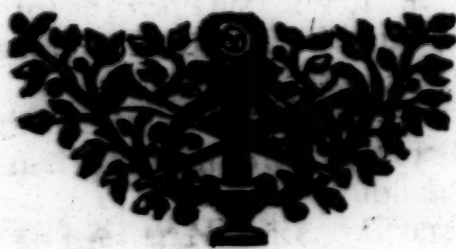
That

But

But not to follow bad Custom,
 and endeavour to harangue you
 out of your Senses, I shall con-
 clude my Address with a late most
 glorious Repartee of a Nobleman
 in *Paris*, leaving every body to
 make the Application, in due
 Form and Order, as he pleases.
 A Person (whether Lawyer or no,
 my Authority says not) was late-
 ly committed to the *Bastile* for a
 notorious Offence, and condemn'd.
 A Friend of the Criminal's (as
 Rogues in this World commonly
 find most) solicited the Noble-
 man to make Interest at Court to
 save his Life; enforcing his Sol-
 licitation with (as he thought)
 this most irresistible Argument.
 That

ADDRESS. xxiii

That the Person, who was to suffer, was his Honour's near Relation ; and, therefore, his Suffering would be a Disgrace to the Family. You mistake the Point, replies that great Man, a Rogue in a Family is a living Disgrace to it : But to hang such a one out of it, is, in my Opinion, nothing less than doing an Honour to it.



L A W

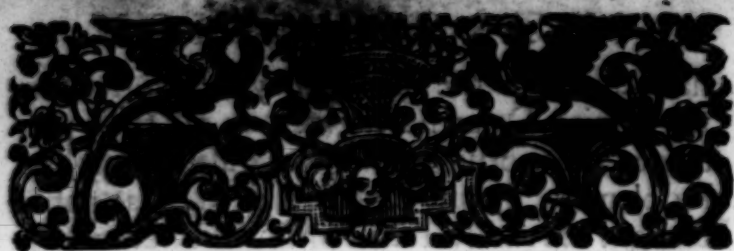
ADDRESS.

That the Person, who was to suffer, was his Honour's near Relation; and, therefore, his suffering would be a Disgrace to the Family. You mistake the Point; replies that great Man, a Rogue in a Family is a living Disgrace to it: But to have such a one out of it, is, in my Opinion, nothing less than doing an Honour to it.

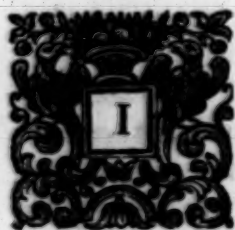


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INTRODUCTION.



It is a common complaint (and in my Opinion there is Ground more than enough for it) that the Law and Lawyers, under their present Situation, are a Judgment, perhaps the greatest, that the People of *England* ever lay under. I have heard the same even from some of the Long Robe ; and both Barristers and Attornies are rarely so squeamish, as to refuse an Assent to the great Difficulty of finding an honest Lawyer. But tho', with the most charitable, I would agree to allow of a small Quantity, the general Character is so very flagrant, that I must close with the common Complaint first spoken of, That the Publick need to lie under no greater Nufance. Offers in Parliament, in our Days, have been, many and many, for a Redress of this Mallady ; and Patriots in abundance have, seemingly, set about a vigorous Reform: But, as if the Disease was desperate, so soon as ever they

B

have

2 INTRODUCTION.

have dipt into the Evil, they have, let me say it with Deference, given up all their pretended Patriotism either to Pusillanimity or Indolence. I must confess, indeed, that noble Designs are rarely accomplish'd without much Pains. But where a truly generous Spirit sets before him the Glory that will redound upon the Accomplishment; Pains, Labour, and Danger itself will be so far from cooling his Ardour, that they will stimulate his Soul, like another *Hercules*, to cleanse this more than *Augean* Stable.

Till that happy *Æra*, I hope I shall have the Applause of all but the Guilty, if I enforce the Necessity of the Work by good Reasons, and recommend the Undertaking, by setting out the Benefits that must accrue to all my Countrymen in its being brought to Perfection.

I think the great Lord *Verulam*, the Glory and Shame of our Nation, was the first that attempted to put his Hand to this good Work. A Reduction of the Body of our Laws (which in his Time were, in his own Opinion, grown excessive) into a Code, like that of the Emperor *Justinian*, was the Subject of his first Effort. But I imagine his Persecutions which suddenly succeeded (and perhaps that very Attempt, might in some Measure hasten them, for the Lawyers we find were then a powerful Body) put a Stop to the Pursuit of those his good Intentions, and robb'd the Nation of a Work which, had it been atchiev'd, would

not

INTRODUCTION. 3

not have redounded more to his Glory than to the Weal of the Publick. The Lord Chief Justice *Hales*, as I have been inform'd by Relations (who in Confirmation of the Truth of it, shew'd me several Manuscript Writings of his that Way tending) entertain'd some Thoughts of the same Nature. But how it happen'd that it was not proceeded upon, they could not tell me, and therefore the Reader must be in the dark as well as I. The Lord Chief Justice *Holt* was often known to wish such a Work might be undertaken at the publick Charge, and express'd his Readiness to countenance it.

But, alas! had any one of them had the Honour to have brought it to Perfection in our Days, I fear it would hardly have answer'd the Ends propos'd. As voluminous as our Laws are grown, the Locust Race are increas'd to almost the Number of Lines in those Laws; and those who should regulate the Evil, are such good * *Mabometan* Christians, that till Nature does her own Work, an Insect must not lose its Life, tho' a whole Nation suffer under the voracious Depredation. An Office, forsooth, tho' purchas'd under a villainous Pretence, and founded on as vile an Institution, must not be abolish'd, *durante vita*, because purchas'd of one, perhaps, that, if

B 2 examin'd

* The *Mabometans* make a religious Merit of purchasing Birds, &c. for no other Reason but to set 'em at full Liberty, and save their Lives.

4 INTRODUCTION.

examin'd into, had no more Right or Equity in Law to sell, than *Jack Ketch* to dispose of his more honourable Post. I am sensible a tiny Effort was made in a late Act to qualify all such Gentlemen for Practise, intending, perhaps, to distinguish between good and bad : But it only discover'd, to the Grievance and Shame of the Nation, that the Numbers were large enough to ruin the four Quarters of the World, however unhappily confin'd to the miserable Portion of Land that makes not a millioneth Part of the whole. Perhaps a very few, whose Necessities render'd 'em incapable of compassing the Badge (and who being necessitous, were the more likely to be honest) might stand excluded, and lose the Opportunity of being enter'd into the infernal Hierarchy, altho' they might have pleaded, perhaps, some Title from Clerk-ship : But still there appear'd upon the List a Band of Veterans adequate to the Work, had the Sins of the Nation call'd for speediest Judgment.

If the Fraternity, from first to last, should think me too severe, before I enter into further Disquisition, I would humbly move to have an *Englishman's* Liberty, and ask some Questions, that will, in my Opinion, be found not altogether impertinent to the Matter in Hand. And first, for my better Government, I would desire to know of these Sages, the Extensiveness of their Fraternity ; that is, whether the Finisher of the Law has
not

INTRODUCTION. 5

not a Plea or Claim as well as the Beginner ; the Hangman, as well the Catchpole ? And if the Force of Truth (and Equity and good Conscience for Reasons very obvious shall stand apart) should oblige 'em to answer in the Affirmative, I shall humbly request, that they would pay an equal Deference to that sublime Professor, and pull off their Hats whenever he goes about his proper Business ; and, in the mean Time, that they behave with the same Conscience truly scrupulous to him-wards, as they have always done to those of the next Station, whenever they have been charg'd as Infractors of the Law.

I know some of the over-grown ones have pleaded the Scandalousness of appearing concern'd in a Penal Act : But if such Semi-Logicians would give themselves, for once, a little Leisure of Consideration, they would not deem that scandalous which had pass'd the Sanction and Debate of a whole Legislature ; and, for that Reason, for the Good of a Nation, which consists in the faithful Execution of its Laws, would drop the low Claims from Affinity and Relation, as Brethren of the Quill, and make the Catchpole sensible, that if he dares to infringe an Act of Parliament, Punishment, as far as that enacts, shall be his Dole, and exert their utmost Efforts : Not that I would have any of those Gentlemen practise or plead, as once was the laudable Usage in Old *Rome*, gratis : No! to gratify

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their Consciences, which I know, generally speaking, lie pretty near the Bottom of their Pockets, if any Client presents in *forma pauperis*, let him boldly assert his original Title to Want of Charity, and slip his Neck out of one Collar to reserve it for another : But if the fair Ingredients are presented (as the M. D's say, to a *quantum sufficit*) in my Opinion every Professor of the Law that declines a Suit, which is fairly countenanced by a publick Act, should, by a new Act made for that purpose, either lessen the Number of Locusts by a publick Resignation, or be liable to pay full Costs and Damages to the offering Client (and that too in a Measure the Criminal Catchpole was liable to) for pretending to set his own little Reputation and Opinion in Competition with the Sense of a whole Parliament.

I cannot leave this Head, however, without observing, that, tho' the Gentlemen aforesaid are so squeamish of engaging for a Client, in a Cause which they iniquitously stile scandalous, because against a Catchpole, those Criminal Favourites of theirs never want Practisers of both Sorts, to keep their Rogueries in Countenance, by patronizing their Villainies. The Cubs of the Profession are not their only Protectors; but even the Holland Coif, and Long Sleeve, take the Criminals into their Protection, and recommend with Passion their pitiful Cases, (too pitiful, one would think, for

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for Men of Penetration to compassionate) to the Compassion of the Bench. Such nice Distinguishers of Merit are those Gentlemen, that they invert the Intention of the Law, and render an Oppressor of the Oppress'd. But Consanguinity carries always in it somewhat contagious; and Partiality, with some sort of Men, will ever wear the Face of a sort of Justice.

But lest I should anticipate my second Question, I would secondly crave Leave to ask, Whether, to make their Objection plausible, they can pretend to any Claim or Title to that indelible Character, which most of them make so very slight of, and ridicule in a more sacred Order. If not, I would desire to ask further, Why are they so abstemious, under such Daily Opportunities, of prosecuting such Delinquents among their more immediate Brotherhood, whose Crimes are flagrant enough to disgrace the Gallows, and whose Punishment consequently must terminate in their truest Praise. Without any Stretch either of Faith or Charity, I can believe and hope there are some of that great Multitude who both deserve and desire the Characters of honest Men. Can such, then, imagine it will not redound to their Credit, as well as Interest, to have the scabby Part of the Flock distinguish'd by a laudable Separation? Would it not be the readiest Way to remove the general Odium, and re-establish the Reputation.

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Reputation of a Profession, that, under the Cloud of a Multitude of Laws, will always be necessary, or at least till those Laws, to the Relief of a suffering People, are happily reduc'd to a narrower and more compendious Compass? Do the Pettifoggers, Barretors, or Champertey Men add any Lustre to the Fraternity? Or can they hold them necessary, like Foiles, to set off the Gloss of brighter Jewels? And Jewels they must be esteemed, few as they are, who act with Integrity and Firmness, as well as Fairness to their Clients.

Whenever I meet with such a fair Practiser (in the real Sense) I am so far from loading him with the Demerits of others, that I am ready to think myself in another World; and am framing in my Imagination an approaching Æra, that may be beneficial, as well as honourable, to my native Country. I begin to paint in my Fancy a long Farewel to Oppression; and seem to see the Widow and Fatherless eating their Bread without any Commixture of Tears. I fancy the *mechanical* Part of their Brother Operators, who of Tapsters, Weavers, Taylors, and Joyners, commenc'd Attornies, to the Ruin of Thousands of Clients as ignorant as themselves, all return'd to their original Occupations, and the Nation so far reliev'd of a Burden. But, alas! on Recollection, I am overtaken with Apprehension and Fear: For
if

INTRODUCTION. 9

if so small a Number as Ten might have sav'd *Sodom* and *Gomorrab*, I cannot but cry within myself, What a vast Superfluity have under the late Act qualify'd themselves for Solicitors and Attornies !

So much as to Practisers in general. I shall now proceed to point out the Calamities attending the Clients from the Mal-Practice of their Lawyers. But who can sustain the Labour ? Search the City and Country—Take the Complaints of the Widow and Fatherless—Do not neglect the honest Tradesman, or reject the poor Farmer ; —and perhaps they may produce you Volumes, that alone may out-bulk the Body of our Laws. I had once a Thought of setting about a Collection of this Nature, in order to publish it, for the Instruction of my loving Countrymen, and my poor Fellow-Sufferers.—I had more than my own Inclination to press me forward ; several of my Acquaintance goading me on with the Glory, and some with the Advantage, of the Undertaking : But just as I begun to draw towards a Resolution, I perceiv'd at my Elbow a more than a Cozen of one of those who was like to make a considerable Figure in my Collection ; and he had got, between his Finger and Thumb, a Piece of Parchment, with a Couple of Seals at the End of it, call'd a *Lattitat*, which he brandish'd in the Air by way of Terror. Nevertheless, tho' it serv'd to affrighten my over-weak

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Supporters, it no farther intimidated me, than to postpone the Work till I could, by my Pains and Care, render it thoroughly compleat. If there should happen to be any Reader of this Book, that finds himself inspir'd with sufficient Motives to encourage the Labour, my Collection is too far advanc'd to be the Sacrifice of Fear and Apprehension.

But to go on with my Discoveries : The first great Evil, and perhaps the Original of all, is the unreasonable Encouragement these human Vultures find in all their Proceedings. The Law, as it is now manag'd, seems no more than a Game at Tennis ; where Superiors and Inferiors play into one another's Hands, and divide the Stakes, tho' the Money comes all out of other People's Pockets. I confess it is pretty enough, tho' nothing new, to see the Catchpole and his Brother the Viti-litigator go Snacks ; But it must raise Indignation in every honest Heart, to understand the Court, in its Officers, come in for a Dividend. It is well known, that every Subject contributes towards the Increase of Stipends : Why then should he be excis'd for the Underlings ? Can it be deny'd, that this Encroachment is the Foster-Father of others ? It must be a very strong Principle of Honesty, that can resist the profitable Persuasions of bad Example. But, alas ! as not one in ten thousand ever trouble themselves with any Principle

INTRODUCTION. 11

Principle but that of Mammon (visible in their Bills, as well as Practice) what a Deluge of Encroachment and Extortion are the poor Subjects of this Kingdom liable to! Get or lose the Cause, there is little Difference; and the Man had Wit in his Sign-Post Satire, tho' it disgusted his Honour, his Landlord, even to the Discharge of a very good Tenant.

But it may be offer'd against this Objection of Extortion, That common Practice must acknowledge a Remedy in the Masters Taxing of Bills. A pretty Remedy indeed! which still brings Grist to the General, or, if you please, to the Manour, Mill, and lays the Oppress'd under fresh Loads of Oppression. The crafty Gamesters know well enough the Dice they throw with; and the Client must have great good Luck, if he does not find the Doctor his Portion. However, this we are all sure of, by woful Experience, that to tax a small Bill, the Play will not pay the Candle. Therefore, the little Vermin are sure to elude the Trap; and as for the great — there is such a Certainty of Charge and Attendance, and such an Uncertainty (from what is not yet ripe enough for naming) of taking off a sixth Part, to entitle him to the Costs, so as to compensate the Pains and Hazard, that I have known sensible Men submit to one Rapine, rather than risque a second. It is very certain, this Indolence, or Over-Caution of theirs, has given some Encouragement

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agement to the iniquitous Part of the Fraternity to persist in their Ways, and will remain irremediable, till some penal Statute disqualify for ever every Infraction.

It was no ill Advance towards a Remedy, to this and many other-like Evils, which a late House of Commons propos'd in the fixing the several Fees of every Officer in every Office. Had they proceeded, it might have done somewhat towards Redress: But, unless they had at the same Time settled the Price of a vulgar Attorney's Letter, and limited the Number and Value of their mostly unprofitable Attendances (to their Clients I mean) the Necessity of Taxing would have remain'd, and the Taxer, as a Brother of the Quill, must be an uncommon good Man, that will over-look Consanguinity and Relation, to do Justice to a Stranger. When I mention Consanguinity and Relation, I must not be understood to mean in a natural, but political Sense; of which, if we grant that Interest is the Basis, all natural Claims will, among this Set of Gentry, be found to be Foibles. As I hinted before, the Ties of Relation are Sacred even in a Catchpole; whose Infractions of the Law are only Badges of his Consanguinity, and accordingly enact Compassion and Assistance. It carries the Mark of a Free Mason with it; with this Difference only, that as one plays the Fool with Oaths, the other plays the Knave by Custom,

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Custom, and pleads Prescription for it : But these must all pass for Peccadillos, with those light-finger'd Gentry, who defalk a Guinea in two of what the Client allow'd for the Barrister to plead his Cause. I persuade myself, *in prima facie*, this will appear somewhat monstrous ; nevertheless, I dare appeal for the Truth of it, even to the Gown-men themselves. It is true, it is somewhat against the *pacta Conventa* of the Tribe, if not a Sort of preying on their own Kind : But for all that, I am able to produce Vouchers, if the Gentlemen injur'd should be unwilling to vouch against a Brother ; tho', in this Case, perhaps, they will not be found so very backward. Well ; but, say they, there is even here a Remedy, and if you see Council, and move the Court, it may be you will be order'd your Money back. Thus it is but a *may be* at the best : Yet where, I wonder, had been that *may be* Satisfaction, if it had not been very accidentally discover'd ? The Lawyer would have pleaded according to his Pay (for they are all perfect *Swiss* in Discipline) and the Client, for want of some due Emphasis or other, had undergone the Slur, and Charge perhaps of a Non-Suit, or some other litigious Procrastination.

A late Act, indeed, provides, that every like Malversation shall be mulcted with Transportation : But who, I wonder, can prove that ever any Defaulter was so punish'd ? A right Judge's

14 INTRODUCTION.

Judge's Clerk would never admit that so egregious a Perquisite should be so absconded. The Emolument of his Pocket is much preferable no that of the Nation; and, altho' he calls his Master Lord, he will not stick; on all Occasions, to evince himself so much Lord of his Master, as to make his great Reputation almost every way subservient to his own Interest. In short, the Judge is the Mouth of the Law; but a right good Clerk will take care to have the Management of every Orifice about him. The Question *Vespasian* put to *Titus*, on offering to his Smell some Monies that had been the Product of the Stercorian Duties, is never out of his Memory, but ready at hand for Application whenever reprimanded: And reprimanded he may be sometimes, tho' rarely, very rarely, punish'd, be his Demerits never so flagrant.

There are, doubtless, many yet greater Hardships attending the unfortunate Client, than are here touch'd upon; but, as I shall be oblig'd to mention some of them, when I come to make some useful Observations on the Practice and Proceedings of our Lawyers in their several Courts, I shall only dilate upon one or two which affect the Client universally, and which bad Lawyers, however found to be tardy in, as the Law is now circumstanc'd, never did, nor, if they can help it, ever will, make any Satisfaction for,

And

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And the first shall be, The Loss of Writings, whether Deeds, Bonds, or other Articles material in the Cause depending. I remember, about two Years ago, while the Reforming Bill was in the House, I mentioned this among other things to a Member, and a very active one, who thought it highly reasonable that the Lawyer should be made responsible; and said he would propose it to the Committee: But the sudden End of that Session put an End to all at that Time, and the Time has not yet come that has brought any thing like it upon the Stage. However, to evince the Reasonableness of making either Attorney or Solicitor responsible for all Writings entrusted to his Care, I shall issue this Head with a Transaction within my own Knowledge. A Solicitor in Chancery, an honest Man, as Times go, and well vers'd in Business (tho' in the Case in hand a little supine) was employ'd by a Friend of mine to file his Bill. The Equity of the Bill was founded on Articles sign'd between the Plaintiff and Defendant some Time before. Soon after the Filing of the Bill, and a little before the putting in the said Answer, the Solicitor for the Plaintiff, leaving his Bag, as usual, with the Woman of the Coffee-house he made use of, a Trickster on the other Side, finds Means, some way or other, to rummage the Bag, and take out the very Articles on which all the Equity was founded. In short, soon after an Answer was put

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put in and (as they remain'd sure of a Prize) the whole Equity was deny'd. The Solicitor was very sure that he had had the Articles in his Possession; but that was not sufficient: For which Reason, and for fear of exposing one that he could not think any other ways guilty than of Carelessness, my Friend dropt the Cause, upon the Solicitor's agreeing to pay Costs. But sure it can never be pretended that this Over-Lenity of my Friend ought to be brought into Precedent. The Lot might have fallen upon a Man whose Ruin it might have been; and in such Case, if Law was deficient, Equiry itself was sufficient to have done him Justice.

But there is yet another Enormity more flagrant than the last mention'd; and that is, when a fair Practisior, as they call them, after he has had Money enough to bring the Cause to a Hearing, just in the very Crisis — elopes his Client, and leaves him in Danger of being non-suited, or of paying Costs for Default of going on to a Hearing. One would think there were not such Rogues as these to be found upon the Face of the Earth; — but the *English* Law is a prolifick Parent. Not that I would engross the Honour of my Countrymen: For, on Experience I can say it, that our United Brethren are in all Cases of this Nature in a Degree next above the Comparative: But, according to their customary Affection, they mimick their beloved Brethren the

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the *French*, and do all Things in the *Civil* Mode and Manner. But whether Bribery, Fear, or Extortion be the Parent of this Dereliction, or if Indolence or Pleasure (as your very Cubs are mighty Party — that Way) it must be granted, the suffering Client ought to have his Redress some more summary Way, than by moving a Court, and appealing to Judges who are in some Measure Parties against Compensation.

This leads me to the last Head that I shall touch upon for the present. And that is, Their Diligence and Integrity; which, tho' intelligible Words in themselves, appear wholly unintelligible in their Practice. I put them together, because, in my Opinion, every Man that is Master of Integrity will be diligent. Every Cause is undoubtedly a Trust; and, according to the Condition of the Person, or the Importance or Value thereof, every such Trust ought to exact the Consideration of the Person entrusted. If then by Neglect, Inadvertence, or want of due Application, it can be legally prov'd, and to the Satisfaction of a Jury, that the Client has suffer'd, the Undertaker ought to pay full Costs and Damages: Or if not in a Capacity to do that, he will hardly want the Assent of any honest Man for his being sent to a properer Employment, to plant Tobacco in *Virginia*, or some other of our *Indian* Plantations. There can be no Excise at all in the Punishment, if we consider

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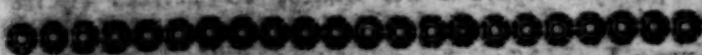
consider the Encouragement they all have, from even their reasonable Fees: For if under Allowances suiting a Gentleman, he will be guilty of Porterly Actions, who can grudge him Porter's Usage. If it should be started as an Objection, That such Rigour will be a Discouragement to the young Professors; I answer, There's no Danger of it. Some perhaps may be afraid; in which Case I doubt not, but all will agree, that every Lessening is some Alleviation to the Evil. Those who are of a more daring Spirit, may persist, and leave the Timorous to their fancy'd Genius of Poetry; which, in all Probability, may produce some Ballads, or Ballad, that, to the Honour of the great Fraternity, may long survive that of *Moor of Moor-Hall* that slew the Dragon of *Wamtley*.



L A W



L A W V I S I O N S.



V I S I O N I.



HAVING disengag'd myself from some Company, rather Night, that had been too noisy, to be any Way engaging, I made my Retreat to my Study; and the idle Conversation having furnish'd my Head with little worth ruminating on, in order to amuse myself, I took the first Book that came to Hand, which happened to be *Don Quexedo's Visions*; the Vision I open'd upon was that of *the Catchpole possess'd*; where, as in most of the rest, is so much Satire, intermix'd with so much moral Truth, as can never fail of giving Entertainment to any Mind given to Reflection. The Impression

pression it made on me was so strong, that, after I had properly prepar'd myself, and compos'd me for Repose, the Soul disdainful of that Inactivity which was requisite to the Support of its Host the Body, carry'd me into Regions that I had before been wholly a Stranger to.

Methought I found myself in the midst of a great Croud, in a very spacious Apartment, at the Upper-End whereof sat three venerable Persons (venerable by Age, but more by Aspect) advanc'd on Seats, to render them more conspicuous to all the Company. Their every Look struck me with Awe, and naturally led me to enquire of the very next to me, Who they were, and what they were going upon? Don't you know them? reply'd he; perhaps you soon may, to your Sorrow. For though this be a Day set apart for judging of Lawyers, yet these are they before whom all must appear, and by whose Sentence the Great, as well as Little, must abide. He in the Middle there is *Minos*; and *Æacus* and *Rhadamanthus* sit on each Hand. This Account surpriz'd me with fresh Terror; which my Informant perceiving, added by way of Consolation, that if I was no Lawyer, I might adjourn my Apprehensions to a further Day; for that none but the Causes of such were then to come before them. I could not but take Notice, that all at that Time present were *English*, excepting a very few that

that came from an United Kingdom, who, I understood afterwards, had wisely left the Place of their Nativity, lay'd down their Packs, which nevertheless had left on their Shoulders Marks of their former Vocation, and, under the Benefit of the Union, had transplanted themselves in order to turn Attornies and Barristers.

So soon as Silence had been thrice proclaim'd, and all appear'd in a perfect Hush; the Clerk, who was a poor meagre, lath-gutted Wretch, stood up, and holding a Paper in his Hand, which I suppos'd to be, as I after found it, a List of the Criminals for that Sitting appointed for Trial; the first call'd upon was *Peter Puzzlecause*. The Fellow answer'd to his Call ready enough, and advanc'd with a Countenance that demonstrated that Shame had not lately been of its Acquaintance. No sooner had *Rhadamanthus* cast his Eye upon him, but, with a Sternness very natural, he call'd to him, and told him, That notwithstanding a decent Assurance might become the Innocent, his consummate Front betoken'd Guilt rather than Innocence, and seem'd to threaten the Court, that Justice itself was in some Danger of being Brow-beat. But, added he, consider where and who you are before. Human Weaknesses, though what we were not Strangers to while on Earth, were always the Slaves of Reason, the Merit of which station'd us here. As far as
our

our Limits permit us, we shall be ready to shew Compassion : But, I must tell you, the full Antithesis to Modesty is by no Means the Way to gain it.

The bold Vitiligator, not at all mov'd at what would have confounded a Spirit of less Audacity, answer'd, that he had been sworn and enter'd accordingly, pursuant to a late Act of Parliament, and therefore was come to put himself upon his Trial voluntarily, having for Dispatch given the Clerk in Court his Fee to put him first upon the List. But *Minos*, jealous that some Trick might lie conceal'd under such Over-Forwardness, mov'd that his Hearing might be postpon'd ; to which the other two assenting, *Puzzlecause* was set aside to some future Hearing, and another call'd in his room.

I was ruminating what should be the Meaning of postponing the Trial of such an Offender as he seem'd to be, when turning about, before I could ask the Question, the Cryer call'd out *Skinall* ; I remember'd one of the Name, a true Stapler in Law, and that drew my Eyes to see if it was the same. So soon as ever he had clear'd his Eyes of their original Rheum, and wip'd his Nose (for he always was Master of a runing Brain, or at least what he call'd Brain was always that Way a runing) he demanded, Attorney-like, an Account of his Charge. An Account of your Charge ? said the grim Officer ; Why, here's an Indictment

ment six Yards long — I never heard of the Fellow of it, unless it was that of a *Leucopibeian* Lawyer, which coming before a *sad* Judge, its Length had the Luck to be made Matter of Innocence. My Lords, cry'd *Skinall*, with a squeaking Sort of Vociferation, Is not this a Sort of *foreclosing* the Court? Upon which *Minos* call'd out to the Clerk — Read — Read.

I remember, Champertney, Barratry, Subornation and Perjury, were some of the Heads of the Charge; but what stuck most upon the poor Cull was, that he had once carried on a Cause for a Person in Prison, and when he had recover'd Debt, Costs and Charges, slipt his Client, and slunk the Whole into his own Pocket. The Evidence was so full, that *Skinall* was put to his whole Troop of Evasions and Quibbles; notwithstanding all which, the Judges unanimously decreed him *Tantalus's* Punishment, only changing the Element of Water into that of Fire.

So soon as he was carry'd away out of Court to the Place of his warmer Ordeal, the Clerk in Court call'd another; but none answering to the Name, Enquiry was made what was become of him; the Jailor, assur'd of an Impossibility of any Escape, was leaving the Court to make a Search, when one of his Imps meeting him, acquainted the Court, that the poor Wretch, conscious of his own vast Demerits, had taken Sanctuary in a flaming

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ing Lake to avoid a Trial. A Notion we see too often prevalent on Earth, where Men frequently, to prevent present Misery, immerge themselves eternally.

After a little Pause, the Clerk in Court was order'd to call the next in the Roll; who happen'd, when on Earth, to be a very Medley of a Man. As soon as he had heard his Indictment read, he demurr'd to the Validity of the Process, as being charg'd as a Lawyer, when it was very well known that he had never acted in any other Capacity than as a common Catchpole. For this, he offer'd in Evidence several Persons standing near him: But *Minos* enquiring into their Professions, found them all of his own Tribe. Upon which *Minos* rejoin'd, that as in their own native Country all Butchers were debarr'd from being upon Juries of Life and Death, so it had been a Rule immemorial in these lower Regions, never, on any Occasion, to admit as Evidence any Catchpole. And as to the Error which he pretended was in the Indictment, the Judges appeal'd to an able Practisior then in Court; who depos'd, upon Oath, that a Catchpole and a Lawyer where ever by the Learned deemed synonymous. *Minos* was hereupon going on to a Trial, in order to Sentence, when the Brotherhood rais'd an Uproar, which seem'd to threaten not only a Disturbance to the Court, but to endanger the Constitution. Immediately, on a Sign given, rush'd

rush'd in a horn'd Regiment of *Janizaries*, who seiz'd them every one, and, pursuant to Order, carry'd them to the Lake reserv'd for Atheists and Sodomites.

They had hardly been hurry'd out of Court, when a little Cub of the Law, with as little Hair upon his Chin as Brains in his Head; pertly advanc'd to the very Bar, saying, he was next Oars, and for that Reason came to save them the Trouble of calling him. He had in his Hand a Midwife and Evidence both in one, who having been his Client, had administred to him large Experience of her various Qualifications. The Judges at first stood a little aghast at the Assurance of the tiny Creature: But at last bidding the Clerk read, they found little Master, however green in Years, had come up to the most adult in Mammonical Merits and Acquisitions. The Judge was going to give Sentence, when the forward Cub solicited hard to be heard by himself or Council. In Compassion to his Youth, the Court indulg'd him: When, with a Hem or two to introduce Utterance, he desir'd them to consider, that he had not been long a Practiser before he was call'd off the Stage, and that it was excusable in Youth if, ambitious to arrive to be considerable, he had stuck at no Means to gain Riches for a Foundation. A good Foundation, my Lords, continued he, is, in my Opinion, the most promising Method to raise a good Superstruc-

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ture ; and therefore I held myself oblig'd, in Nature, as well as Profession, *per fas & nefas*, as the Learned have it, to display a double Diligence in my Function. True it is, I may have gone aside from the rigid Rules of Honesty and Integrity : But then have I not to plead in Mitigation, my Lords, Custom and Prescription ? My Master taught me, to be sure, nothing but what he was taught by his Master, and so *ad infinitum* : If, therefore, all have err'd by Precedent and Example, the Law, and not its Followers, are to be responsible. Besides, said he, — and was going on, when *Rhadamanthus* started up, and bad him hold his Babbling, and consider he was not before Judges that were to be wheedled or prevaricated out of their Senses : Ill Example, said he, is not to be pleaded as Precedent in this Court : For whoever follows a Multitude to do ill, will be sure to reap the Fruits of it in an equitable Share of the Punishment due to their Demerits. You had Reason to guide you ; if you had not, and wanted that, with somewhat else, why did you undertake a Calling you were no ways qualified for ? In short, the Signal was immediately given, when enter'd four of the horn'd *Janizaries* with a Blanket, in order to clear all the Avenues to his Understanding ; after which preparatory Purgation, he was left to his Option, whether to boil with *Icarus*, or fry with *Phaeton*. He would fain (and forwardly enough) have made

made an Execution-Speech for the Instruction of his Brethren: But, as *App* — was not at hand to take the Minutes, the Court refus'd to indulge him.

Scarce was the Court got clear of him, when the Hall rebounded with an astonishing Din and Clamour of, Room! Room! The Judges themselves at first were under some little Consternation; till they observ'd, advancing in the Middle of the Hall, a Person of no little Appearance, with two Tipstaves before him to clear the Way. *Charon* had taken away from them the Staves of their Office; but, instead thereof, had given each of them a Fly-flap to keep the Breezes from repaying, before the appointed Time, their unconscionable Voracities upon the Sores of their unfortunate Fellow-Creatures. Their Lord, as they call'd him, was stately in his Step as well as Person; and advanc'd directly up to the Judges, as if he expected to be admitted to take his Seat. But the Bar-keeper, stopping him, ask'd his Business? Is there nothing, said the Shade, to be expected in this Region but Rudeness? The Ferryman, continued he, begun the Dance, and would not admit me into his Boat till he had stript me of my Lambskin; and when stripp'd, it was with much ado I obtain'd the Favour of bringing it along with me under my Arm. It was to put it on, that I might properly appear before your Serenities (addressing himself to the

O 2

Judges

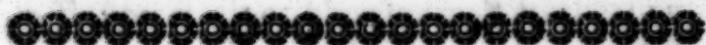
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Judges) that I stay'd by the Way, to the End that at first View you might discover our Relation by the Tokens. — *Rhadamanthus*, offended at so much matchless Arrogance, cut him short by telling him, Relation here was of no Avail; nor could they, by the Rules of the Court, admit him to his Trial till the Arrival of proper Witnesses. However, because he seem'd in haste, they had always ready drawn proper Interrogatories, upon which, if he was willing to answer, they should be read to him in open Court. With an Air of Indignation, mixt with Contempt, he at first rejected the Proposal; till finding there was no Way of avoiding it, he desir'd to hear them. Upon which the Clerk took them into his Hand, and, with an audible Voice, read as follows. First, Did you never take, or allow to be taken by any belonging to you, any Bribe, Gratuity, or Reward, to the Delay or Deviation of Justice? Secondly, Did you never lend an Ear to Might against Right: Or give a hard Sentence on the Cause of the Poor to curry Favour with the Rich? Thirdly, Did you always maintain the Right of the Widow and Fatherless against their Oppressors? Fourthly, Did you never go Snacks with any of your Clerks in their Exceedings? On reading the last, he grew quite out of Patience, saying, such Interrogatories were never exhibited to a Person of his Rank before: They did not treat him in Quality, he cry'd.
Yes,

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Yes, yes, said the Cryer, *Hales* and *Holt* — will tell you they answer'd to the same ; *if ever you get to speak with them.* One of the *Tips*, thinking himself in his old Station, was going to correct this Sauciness to his Master, with a Knock, when methought a File or two of the horn'd *Janizaries* fell upon them, and cry'd, one all, Away with them ! Away with them to their Brother *Catchpole* ! The Contest and Clamour wak'd me ; but in such a Fright, that I have hardly yet recover'd it.





VISION II.

A Beautiful Lady of my Acquaintance started Yesterday, in Conversation, an Assertion as extravagant as ever I heard, *That she could dream when, and of what she pleas'd.* I only return'd to my fair Asserter, that then I made no Doubt but she always took Care to furnish herself with none but pleasant Dreams; at which she blush'd, and oblig'd me, in Decency, to suspend my carrying on that Conversation any further. I confess I know many of my Male Acquaintance, that can, and do, dream all their Lives, awake as well as asleep: But whether, notwithstanding they are so great Proficients in dreaming, they can dream, whenever they please, of what they please, never having ask'd them the Question, I am not able to inform my Reader. However I disclaim any such Capacity; and, for my own Part, could be content not to dream as long as I liv'd, rather than be tormented with a Progeny of Dreams, which my renewing my Acquaintance with Don *Quevedo* seems to have furnish'd me with. The double-sighted Wizards of the North can hardly be under more Terror than I am, whenever I lay myself to Rest.

It

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It was but last Night, that, coming home so weary that I could hardly wait undressing, with a short Ejaculation I threw myself into Bed, and fell into as profound a Sleep as Weariness and Watchfulness could have wish'd for. I was immediately, to my thinking, got into the old Apartment, and before the old Company. The Cryer had thrice, with an usual *O Yes*, call'd for Silence, and pull'd out his Roll, when I heard the Name of *Puzzle-cause* call'd over again: I could not but observe that at the very Instant, a Troop of ragged Wretches made through the Croud, and one before them, elbowing on both Sides, and crying out, Make Room for the Witnesses. *Peter Puzzlecause* seem'd to have elop'd much of his former Intrepidity, and, hanging his Tail like a Dog, that had stole Mutton, was endeavouring to edge himself out of Court: But all his Endeavours were vain; the Witnesses had got him in Ken, and would not suffer him to move a Foot.

The first that spoke, tho' now of a dejected Aspect, addressing herself to the Judges, told them, She was left a Widow with four Children, under the comfortable Situation, however, of a Coach, and a pretty Estate to support it; but that thin-gutted Fellow, says she, pointing to *Peter*, wheedled me into a Law-suit, the Charges of which, under his Management, swallow'd up all, and not only left me in my old Age to trudge it a-foot, but

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my poor Children to the Alms of the Parish, till they were able to support me and themselves by their daily Labour. In my Vexation of Spirit, I happen'd to call him *Rogue*, for which the tap-dropping, weaverly Rascal, in hopes to compleat my Ruin, brought his Action. And ruin me it did indeed effectually; tho' the honest Jury gave him but Two-pence Damages, which the Judge on the Bench said was all too much. But what avail'd it all? The very Costs made me sell my Bed from under me, without any other Revenge upon that vile Wretch, than a little Shame, which had shook Hands with him from his very Cradle. My Witnesses, an't please your Lordships, are here in Court, ready to prove every Tittle; for all which I doubt not your Justice. She had hardly utter'd, when there was heard a continu'd Buzz of *And I—And I—And I—*, for at least the Space of ten Minutes; when Silence being aloud demanded, *Minos* spoke in this Manner to the Criminal at the Bar; You hear what is lay'd to your Charge; what say you for yourself? But *Peter* was so confounded at the Noise, and the terrible Appearance against him, that he submitted to the Mercy of the Court; upon which he was ordered to the sulphureous Pit ordain'd for all such as oppress the Widow and Fatherless. However, at the Motion of the poor Widow, a fiery Chariot was

was directed, that as he had liv'd on Earth in Riot and Rapine, he might ride in Pomp and Triumph to his everlasting Destruction. Some of the *And P's* seeming to regret that their Complaints had not been heard, *Minos*, who observ'd it, told them plainly, that as there needed no Exaggerations of such flagrant Demerits, so the Punishments allotted were so full, and final, and so adapted to Mens Crimes, that a separate and particular Hearing of every Witness could only be attended with great Loss of Time to the Court, and defer the Punishments of other Delinquents there attending. The Reason of the Thing prevail'd with many of them, nevertheless there were not a few who went away grumbling, that the Honour of the Revenge they aim'd at, was transferr'd to another.

The Cryer hereupon call'd aloud for another; and who should it be but little *Huky*? His Name was proclaim'd thrice before any Answer was made: But soon after the third Time, a still Voice was heard to say, Here am I. The Court was angry that he had given them such Interruption, to which he boldly reply'd in Abatement, That he had been there attending upwards of two Hours, for which he hop'd he might be allow'd to charge twice Six and Eight-pence. But being demanded to produce his Credentials, a fat Mistress of a Landlady, and a Fool of a pretty Widow (the Profits of whose Cause, as

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well as her Person, he had converted to his own Emolument) voluntarily presented themselves, and confess'd they had engag'd him in female Dalliances, so that he could not obey the Call any sooner. *Minos* order'd the Evidences away to the Pit provided for impertinent Impenitents; and was going to send *Huky* to a separate Lake reserv'd for the *Lyars*. The little Lawyer objected to the Justice of the last, declaring it as his establish'd Opinion, that if a little Tergiversation was to be punish'd in that Manner, they would do well to provide the largest Lake in their whole Dominions: For, on Examination, they would find, there was not one Lawyer in the Universe, who did not make it an Article in his Creed to falsify his Word; nay that had not, as well as he, under the specious Pretence of a Multitude of Business, neglected the Cause of a poor confiding Client, to waste their Carcases, and their own ill-got Spoils, in Dalliances of Intemperance and Riot. *Rbadamanthus*, rising up in a violent Rage, call'd out, *Away with him, Away with him*; the *Lyars* Lot is not hot enough—Dispatch him to the Mansions prepar'd for the Impenetrable; and let the Tormentors apply their burning Pinchers to every Part, that in a gradual Punishment he may experience the Variety of his vast Demerits. Immediately he was hurry'd away squeaking, and crying as he went, *O that I had thought it!*

Comi-

Coniborough, who had been present all the Time of the last Hearing, on Call of his Name advanc'd boldly up to the Bar, and, without any Question ask'd, began to offer in his own Favour, That for his Part he had never told a Lye in his Life. That's a Rapper, cry'd one next to him, tho' the greatest perhaps in his Budget. How often, by your own Appointment, have I waited on you for your own Opinion in my Case? And how often have you disappointed me? Till upon just Grounds of Jealousy I scrutiniz'd into the Matter, and found that my Adversary had fill'd your Fists full of Delay; and got the long Vacation upon me, by the Loss of Three Terms, before I could have your Opinion to found my Briefs upon. If these are Lyes, reply'd *Coniborough*, I do not understand what a Lye is. But, my Lords, as to female Daliances, the capital Crime of my last Brother, I am wholly innocent, no Man more. — I never knew any of the Sex but my own dear Wife — and her so decently, that I dare aver she will not accuse me of much Wantonness. 'Tis true, she put me to the Expence of a Footman, whom she took a deal of Pains with, and dress'd up after her own Manner: But as she never troubled her Head with me, I let her have her own Way; and thus, without quatrelling, she thoroughly convinc'd me, that one Woman was as much as any one Man need turn his Hand to. He would have gon
on

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on, when *Æacus*, snapping him short, told him, That if Whoring was not his favourite Sin, his Innocence therein might be the Effects of his Fear more than his Prudence. However, on his own Confession, he stood condemn'd of others equally obnoxious: For a Plea of Ignorance was never to be allow'd under Opportunities of Information. Besides, he ought to prove, before his Plea could be allowed, whether his Continence might not be the Fruits of his Avarice, since it is by Experience often found, that the avoiding of one Vice has been only the Masque to cover a greater. In short, *Coniborough* finding Matters like to move in an oblique Orbit, with a deal of Submission humbly propos'd that his Cause might be suspended to the coming of his Dearest, without whose Consent he found it impossible for him to come to any Resolution. The Proposal made the whole Court smile; however, guessing by some Inferences that the poor Man had pass'd through a Sort of Hell upon Earth, they order'd him to be set aside, and accordingly another was call'd to the Bar.

No sooner had the Name of *Dick Gally-hole* made the Room resound, but all that could, got upon advanc'd Places to have a Sight of his insignificant Phiz. *Dick* did not hold down his Head out of Fear: But there were other Accidents enough that would not permit him to hold it up. It seems he came
piping-

piping-cold from a piping-hot Debauch, which
 had sent him in his Meridian down to Hell,
 with a Bag full of Briefs, and Bills, and Answers
 in Hand. The Cryer began to ask him the
 accustomed Questions, when the Court, ob-
 serving him to be in a Situation not capable of
 answering *pro or con*, order'd him under the
 Keeping of the grand Stoker to the Leachers;
 that when one Fire had drove out the other,
 he might be admitted to a final Trial. The
 Company, I found, were all baulk'd; for
 they had flatter'd themselves with something
 entertaining: Which shews that Earth is not
 the only Station where most merry People
 meet with Disappointments.

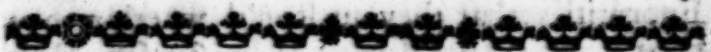
Tom Duggle was the next; and, with his
 Chin cook'd up, and a Jirk with his Tail;
 he advanc'd close up to the Bar. He carry'd
 his wonted Fleece in his Face; and now, as of
 old, shut his Eyes when he spoke, as consci-
 ous of the Value of his Speech before he made
 it. Being a Barrister, forsooth! the Court
 indulg'd him with the Favour of opening his
 own Cause: Upon which Tom elegantly, as
 usual, having shut his Eyes, began in the fol-
 lowing Manner, as near as I can recollect, for
 I had no Opportunity of taking Things in
 Black and White. He told the Court, He
 was in Commission of the Peace, as well as a
 Barrister: But that if he had not pocketed
 more by the former than by the latter, he
 must still have liv'd in a starving Condition.

True

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True it was, he said, that he, as well as many more of his Dangle-sleev'd Brethren, had paid faithful Attendance at *Westminster-Hall*: But, alas! the Consequence was the Loss of Shoe-Leather, to and from the Place, and in the Place; which, tho' he was sure to charge to the Account of the first subsequent Client, did not, one Term with another, keep Matters even. I confess I always look'd slick, and wore good Cloaths: But no Thanks, said he, to either of my Vocations for that: Had I not had the Foresight to have set up a tight Girl in a Coffee-house, who paid me well out of the Perquisites of Adventurers that frequented her Rooms, I must have projected some new Scheme for a Maintenance. Some of my Brethren, I know, could divert themselves by the Hour with a Tooth-pick or a Snuff-box. The Presents of silly Women they own'd them; and indeed as sillily were they employ'd: For to pick the Tooth for a Repast, or to take Snuff to clear the Brain of a Lawyer, is as weak a Thing as the weakest of the Sex could be guilty of. *Tom* had his Eyes still near a Close, and was going on, when an unlucky horn'd Janizary, observing the Court somewhat uneasy under their Indulgence, ran a Needle up to the Head in his most fleshy Part, and made *Tom* wince, if not like a Mule, yet very much like his graver Sire that gave him his original Name. *Tom* ventur'd with open Eyes to exclaim at the Indignity: But the Court

Court, telling him he had insinuated some Enormities that they question'd whether they were as yet prepar'd with Witneses for, they would therefore acquit him as a Lawyer, and, in a proper Time, take him in Hand as a Justice. *Tom*, at this, being out of all mortal Patience, loudly told them, That he hop'd, for their own Credits sake, they would not pretend to call in Question the Broad Seal of *Great Britain*. Upon which *Minos* inordinately order'd him to the Lake of the Insipids, there to be kept to hard Labour till a future Hearing might give some better Account of him. At going away, Ah! says *Tom*, how equitable is my Sentence! How many have I sent to the House of Correction, that never deserv'd it! How many have I excus'd, that never deserv'd better! *Minos*, over-hearing what he said, call'd aloud, Is your boasted Great Seal of *Great Britain* to protect or skreen you in such Rogueries? When next your Day of Hearing comes on, you will be wofully convinc'd, that no Power on Earth can give us any Apprehension or Fear: For all earthly Powers must here appear, and submit to whatever Doom we impose upon them. *Tom*, at this, methought, set up such a hideous Howl, that all my Faculties were so strangely agitated, that it awak'd me.



VISION III.

Naturalists have been strangely at a Loss to give any tolerable Account of, or Return for, the too frequent, but out of the way Appetites or Longings of Women with Child. They who impute 'em to proceed from a vehement Impression upon the Mind, in my Opinion, solve the Difficulty by halves, and assigning an Effect without a Cause, instead of clearing the Matter, render Things more intricate. The Disciples of *Artimidorus*, on this Foot, might dextrously confute all their Opposers, and assert the Validity of their fictitious Tenets; but they are sensible that such an Assertion would defeat 'em of all their advantageous Pretensions, and take away at once all their oraculous Opportunities of imposing upon the weaker Part of both Sexes: Where Dreams, and the Value of 'em have got too full a Possession of the weaker Part of Mankind, not to allow the Interpreters of 'em the Drapery of Ermine, or such other blandishing Accoutrements, as they best love themselves. But Dreams, to me at least, are such unprofitable Ware, and I am so uncertain of any useful Tendencies

Tendencies they have, that I am sometimes apt to consider 'em as a Possession, rather than a Diversion, and could be almost willing to drive out one Foolery with another, by applying to some holy Confessor in a Popish Chapel, to play the Exorcist, and procure me a little Nocturnal Quiet, tho' at the Expence of my Judgment and Reason.

It was but last Night, retiring from a World of gay and facetious Company, which, I flatter'd myself, would have been a sufficient Amulet against all Disturbances of every Kind: When I had hardly lay'd myself down to Rest, but my old Infirmary visited me afresh, and I was no sooner asleep, but the same Company, and in the same Place, took up (methought) every humane Faculty I was Master of. There sat the same three Persons as Judges; there stood the meagre Cryer of the Court, with his long Slip in his Hand; and the Court below was fuller, if possible, than ever I had yet perceived it. This plainly demonstrates, to me at least, the egregious Error of those, who impute those troublesome Interpreters of our Repose, to be the pure Effect of Passages of Mirth or Melancholly previously preceeding. But this is only a *Nota-bene* by way of Interloquiter.

The Cryer had just cry'd Silence thrice over, and was going to call some-body by Name, when a loud Noise of Room, from
the

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the lower-end of the Hall, interrupted him; and drew the Eyes of all, Judges, and every one else, that way. The whole Croud turn'd at once, like a Piece of Clock-work, impatient to have their Curiosities satisfy'd of the Meaning of it. But the Hall, as I said before, was too full to gratify 'em speedily; tho' I could percieve a Sort of a Lane preparing (as well as the great Concourse would admit of it) for something or other that was to be brought forward. After a Struggle for some Time, I, who, methought, stood just under the Cryer, observ'd a Fellow more than half out of Breath, with his Fists fast clutch'd, dragging along a Person of no ill Appearance, till he came up to the very Bar just aside me. *Minos*; in the Instant of his coming up, demanded of him, sternly, what was the Meaning of that Rudeness? So soon as the Fellow had a little recover'd himself, Rudeness? an't please your Honour? said he; I am only doing my Duty. I am your Honour's proper Officer; and an't asham'd on't neither; for tho' Informers, in the World I came from, lie under more than a little Scandal, and justy too (because they inform for Lucre; and not out of any Sence of Justice) we, under your Honour's Commission, know it a Post of Credit, and that we can no Way so well arive at your Honour's good Opinion, as by faithfully discharging our Duty. This Man, continu'd he, on getting out of the
Ferry-

Ferry-boat, was ask'd by more than me, Who he was? to which, all that we could get out of him was, that he was a Gentleman. His often giving every one the same Answer, gave shrew'd Suspicion; for which Reason I boldly advanc'd up to his rosy Jowls, and demanded very civilly his Profession? when, would you believe it, my Lord, he turn'd up his Nose and bid me mind my own Business, or he'd complain of a Breach of Privilege. Words arising hereupon, my Lord, drew a Multitude about us, at which Instant some declar'd, that they had known him a Lawyer; and I am of Opinion, nothing but the meer Force of Destiny drew him hither at this Juncture. I confess, indeed, one Person, who had been what, in the other World, they call a *Bibliopole*, declar'd, that he had maintain'd him in his Garret many Years as an upper Translator; and an old Officer in the Army averr'd, that he had seen him somewhere upon a March, but never in a Battle. I think, may it please your Honour, a Person of so many Calculations, is a very suspicious Person, and ought to be brought before this very venerable Bench for a thorough Examination. Sure I am, it was always held a Maxim, in the other World, That a Government never could be safe, that was bury'd in over-much Security.

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Minos, hereupon, sternly looking upon the Captive, demanded over again, who he was? and of what Profession? Adding withal, that it was to no Purpose to prevaricate; for that they could, in a Moment, turn him Inside out, having Witnesses ready to confront his every Action. Nevertheless, as he seem'd to carry the Appearance of a Person of some Distinction in the World he came from, the Bench would be glad to hear any Thing he could say in his own Vindication. But Truth, and the whole Truth, he said, would be his safest Resource, and that was what would be expected from him. The Anonymous Party, upon this, having a little recover'd himself, resum'd Courage, and, after a healing Hemn or two, My Lord, says he, the great *Coke* delivers it as a stated Maxim in Law, That no Man is oblig'd to accuse himself—You mistake the Point, said *Minos*, interrupting him, we have nothing to do with your great *Coke* here—'Tis the great Conscience we have to do with. We sit as Judges, and must interrogate: But Conscience has before drawn up the Interrogatories you are to answer upon. Are you a Lawyer? or did you ever, as they alledge, make that your Profession? If not, we have nothing to say to you at present. Since Truth must prevail, says the Cull, I must confess, I was design'd for that Vocation, and made some small Progress in my Studies that Way; but

but my poor Tutor stood before my Eyes such a woful Monument of the Insufficiency of its Provisions for its Pupils, that I was discourag'd, and deserted the Calling before ever I was call'd to the Bar. What was you then? said *Minos*, Here are some present that would make a Translator or Cobler of you. An upper Translator, my Lord, says the Informer; for, as his Landlord told me, he lodg'd in his Garret, and cobled Authors, in order to pay his Rent, till he left them without either Heels or Souls. We have nothing to do with him at this Time, says *Radamantbus*: If he will take his Tryal as a Spoiler of Authors, let him be set over; or if he has any other Calling he chooses to stand by, let him now name it; for, as a Lawyer, neither We, nor He, can have any Pretence. What say you? What will you be try'd upon? As a great Officer in the Army, replies the Cull, and—he was going on, when a great Body of the Female-kind, who were plac'd by themselves in a Corner of the Hall, cry'd out to be permitted to come at him; but, to preserve the Dignity of the Court, and the Decorum of the Place, he was dismissed to attend the Military Inquisition; and to pacify the Female Querulists, they were promis'd they should, one and all, then be indulg'd with a patient Hearing. It was with Difficulty enough that the Court silenc'd the impetuous Clamours

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mours of the Females: However, with fair Words, and large Promises (the only effectual Artillery there to be made use of) they quieted their boiling Spirits to a short Respite of Revenge.

This Interruption over, the Cryer was call'd upon to go on; when the Name of *Dick Double* made the Roof of the Hall rebound. But before he could get up to the Bar, his Accuser had plac'd himself in a Posture to confront him. *Double* did not, indeed, appear over hasty to take his proper Station, but shuffled in his Pace, as if the Mantle of his Profession had been purposely wrapped over his Calves, and tucked round his very Waist, to make him shamble. As soon as he had shuffled up to the Bar, his Accuser address'd himself to the Bench, and said, I shall be very short, my Lords, in my Accusation. I dare not appeal to his Conscience; but I dare take upon me to prove, that his Ambidexterity sent me, in all humane Probability, many Lustrums, before my Time, to these Regions. You are, says *Minos*, interrupting him, to explain yourself to the Court, and tell the Manner, and the Means. An't please your Honours, says the Evidence, I had a considerable Cause to come on (so considerable that the Good of my whole Family, which was pretty numerous, depended upon it) and had given that Fellow there, a double Fee to encourage

courage his Dilligence; when, walking in the Hall with a Friend (not yet arriv'd) expecting to have it call'd on, we saw my Adversary, the Defendant, clap into the Hands of that Lawyer there, a Paper: What was in it we could not say; but we never after set Eyes upon my Council there, till the Cause was over; which going against me, for want of his Attendance, render'd me unable ever after to hold up my Head, and at last broke my Heart. This Hen-hearted Fellow could not here help crying, for which, being check'd by the Court, he offer'd in Excuse, that he could not help it when ever he thought of the Condition his poor Wife and Family were in from the Effects of this Deceit.

Minos, hereupon, call'd upon *Double*, either to clear himself, or acknowledge the Charge: When *Dick*, after adjusting his Band, delivered himself in the following Manner; May it please this Honourable Court, I am here accus'd of Matters I am wholly a Stranger to: I am accus'd first of taking a Bribe; and next of eloping my Cause. I will scorn to take up your precious Time in Excuses, sensible that Verity is what you expect and require: I shall therefore, without Circumlocution or Embellishment, let you into plain Matter of Fact. True it is, as my Accuser has said, I was attending in the Hall, waiting the coming on
of

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of this considerable Cause, and, as many others of my learned Brethren do, walking with my Hands behind me, a Person, unseen, and unknown to me, clap'd into my Hands a Piece of Paper. It was my Misfortune, at the very Instant, to be taken with a vehement Gripping, the Effects, I suppose, of eating some stew'd Prunes over Night, which oblig'd me, with all my Might and Main, to hurry away to the proper Place of Easement. There I made use of the Paper, without looking into it; and my Gripes continued so long upon me, that there I was necessitated to stay till the Cause was call'd on, heard, and over. Am I, my Lord, to be accountable for the Infelicities of Nature? then who would ever go to the Bar? Besides, I sent him Word before he dy'd, that we might move for a new Hearing, and, probably, stave off Execution; or, at worst, Chancery was at Hand to relieve us: But the pucillanimous Creature had not one Ear for Reason; but, against all the Advice of the Learned in the Law, took Pet and came away hither to make a Party ready against my Arrival.

Double deliver'd all this with such a Capacity of Assurance, that the Court appear'd to the Spectators to be under some little Suspence. But *Minas* rising up, soon satisfy'd them they were wrong in their Opinions. He demanded of *Dink* categorically, if he
never

never look'd into the Paper to see, or feel, the Contents? Or whether he return'd into Court so soon as ever those small Occasions of his were dispatch'd? To the first he answer'd in the Negative; to the latter affirmatively. On which the Party accusing being ask'd, If he had any Thing further to offer against him, who being struck dumb with the Apprehensions of Matters going against him here, as they had done before; *Æacus*, who had observ'd that untoward tucking up of *Dick's* Male-petticoat, and, withal, that he was often putting his Finger downwards, as if to fasten them faster, commanded one of the Officers to let down the Fellow's Mantle and search him all over; when, between a Pair of Cheeks, somewhat more fleshy than those near his Forehead, they took out a Piece of Paper that display'd the whole Fallacy, and demonstrated that *Dick*, on occasion, could assert roundly, as well as the rest of his Brethren. *Dick* was not a little confounded at the Discovery, and would have stole himself away from farther Examination; but Officers in Court here, as well as the other Side the Water, are close-fisted, and held him so fast, that there was no Appearance of escaping. Doubtless *Dick* would have brib'd, had he not left all his Money behind him. And as for fair Words, they buy no Butter here, any more than in other Places. The Cryer, af-

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ter stopping his Nose, read the Contents of the Note in open Court; wherein was certify'd, not only the Sum deliver'd, but the Conditions of its being given; manifesting, withal, a prior Treaty which could not, till then, be comply'd with, for want of Assets. Upon the Discovery of this notorious Malversation, *Dick's* Wits were all afloat by way of Circumvention. He offer'd first the Improbability of his bringing along with him a Note of that dangerous Tendency. To which was return'd, That it must be look'd upon as wholly Judicial. He then would have recriminated upon those who made the Search, that it was they that put it there, on purpose to disparage a Member of the Long-robe. To which was return'd, the Impossibility of their counterfeiting a Note so well distinguished by Name and Things. At last *Dick*, finding no Way of getting off but by an open Confession, he offer'd, if it might be accepted by way of Mitigation, to let them into the whole Secret. The Court was silent, which *Dick* taking, as had been customary in the World he came from, as a sort of Consent, he went on to acknowledge, That an over Care for his Reputation on Earth, had ruin'd him here; for that having neglected to burn it himself, and being unwilling to trust it to the burning of any other, for fear of leaving behind him a
four-

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four-smelling Reputation, he had order'd it, on his Death-bed, to be put into the Place where it was found, little dreaming, that Scrutinies, in these Parts, were carry'd on so nicely, as he now found to his great Affliction.

Minos, justly enraged at the whole Villany of the Action, at first seem'd at a Loss how to lay a Punishment adequate to the Demerit ; but, after laying his Head together with those of his Brethren, and fully, and wisely, weighing every Part of the Roguery, he was committed to the Charge of a Pair of horn'd Janizaries under this Sentence :

- I. That he should immediately have affix'd on his naked Breast, an Inscription, in bloody Characters, denoting his Crime.
- II. That, as he had play'd the Part of a *Jew*, he should every twelve Hours receive from the Hands of the injur'd Person, the Number of Lashes allotted by the *Jewish* Law, with a strong Cat-a-nine-tails on his bare Back.
- III. That till News arriv'd from the upper Regions, how it went with the poor Wife and Family, he should be chain'd to a Rock at full Length, and have no other Respite than what the Time of his Correction allow'd. And,

IV. When the next Packet brought News, the Court would take into their further Consideration, a full and ample Punishment of every Part of his Enormities, of which the present should be only a Specimen.

Dick Double would have made his Objection to every particular Item ; but the Court overrul'd all, and would by no Means hear him. At which, methought, he stood under monstrous Agonies : But when the red-hot Brands were brought in to sear the Inscription on his Breast, he rais'd such horrid Shreiks, and dismal Outcries, as made the very Roof echo. I sufficiently witness'd the terrible Apprehensions my Dream had flung me under, by waking in a Sudor as great as if I had taken a double Dose of *Venice-Treacle*.





VISION IV.

THERE are very few of the Ancients, either Poets or Philosophers, but what have testify'd their mighty Opinion of Dreams. *Homer* led the Dance, and *Claudian* was not the last, tho' he declares himself fullest in their Favour, when he makes Dreaming the Property of all Creatures, and his Hound to hunt the Hare while he sleeps. But my Experience will not permit me to subscribe to so authentick an Opinion as his; when he obliges me against it, to dream only of Passages of the Day preceeding. *Cicero*, indeed, entertains us with a Dream, but 'tis of quite another Nature; tho' I think much more within the Purlicu of the * Poet, who declares, they are not to be slighted. Such Dreams, as that Philosopher and Orator has given us a Taste of, must be universally entertaining, and, as another Countryman of his declares, ought to have their Weight. If mine prove any ways serviceable to my Country, I shall no longer complain of the Disturbances they create to myself; but think my Moments well spent, tho' spent in Dreaming.

Full of this pleasing Imagination, I had laid myself to Rest, when I could perceive Sleep gently stealing over my Eyes, which

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* *Propertius*.

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which were but just clos'd, when, methought, a beautiful Figure took me by the Hand, saying he would lead me to my proper Station. I went along without the least Reluctance ; my Imagination flattering me, that such a benevolent Guide could not be allotted me for any common Service. He led me through many flow'ry Meadows into a spacious Walk, each Side of which ran Beds of various Kinds of Flowers, where Fragrancy and Beauty contended for Preheminence. At the End of the Walk, a noble Pile presented, far beyond all I had ever seen before, which wrought so much upon my Fancy, that I could not avoid concluding, I was now at the End of my nocturnal Inquietude, and somewhat more propitious was going to reward them. But tho' all Circumstances seem'd to warrant such a Hope, my Guide, on a sudden, methought, through an obscure Passage, up a dark Pair of Stairs, convey'd me into the same Room which I had so often before visited. However, he carry'd me to the Clerk of the Court, and speaking to him to take Care of me, I was plac'd more commodiously than before, where I could see, and hear, every Thing, and without Danger of Affront or Insult. The Reverend Judges, methought, receiv'd me with an Air of Benevolence, as if they were not displeas'd with the Errand I seem'd to be sent upon.

Silence

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Silence was thrice commanded, when the Cryer look'd upon his Roll, and call'd aloud for *Tom Ombre*. By the Name I expected to have seen a sleepy dozy-headed Fellow, and so I told the Clerk : But he, laughing, set me to rights, and inform'd me, that he did not take his Name from his Constitution ; but rather suppos'd him to be a By-blow of some Courtier, who, ashamed to give him his own Name, gave him that of a Royal Game, much us'd and abus'd at Court. He had hardly open'd the Matter, when up came rosy-fac'd *Tom* with a Train at his Heels exceeding that of any Peer of the Kingdom. But, to say the Truth, they were a Parcel of such ill-favour'd Rascals, that set more than the Court a gazing ; for they put out of Countenance the very Train of Devils that led up the Rear by way of Precaution. For my Part, I could not imagine where, on Earth, it was possible to pick up such a Parcel of ugly Faces ; they were to a Man, *Heid——rs* in Perfection. I could not but ask the Clerk, who they were ? and he readily inform'd me, they were Marshal's-Court Officers, every Man of them. The Court sav'd me the Question of their Business there ; when *Tom*, with a Face of pure *Corinthian*, made Answer, They were his Witnesses. Witnesses, says *Minos* ? For what ? Did ever any Court on Earth admit such aboding Countenances for Evidence ? *In*

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fronte nulla fides, quoth *Tom*; They have often, on occasion, answer'd for Bail, and justify'd: sure their Credit is beyond Question? Pick any two of them, I'll uphold it, continues he, they shall swear through a two-inch Board; they are responsible, tho' it were for Five hundred Pounds *Sterling*. But what have we to do with this Rascality? Or what have they to do here, says *Rhadamanthus*? A wise Man will always be prepar'd for the worst, says *Tom*. And, not knowing what might happen, I took Care to come provided. To put a Stop to his Garrulity; the Cryer immediately proclaim'd, That whoever had any Thing to alledge against *Tom Ombre*, now was the Time to make his, her, or their Appearance. Immediately upon which, the Bar was so throng'd that *Tom* was hem'd in, and very naturally represented the Bear at a Stake. The first that accosted him, was a poor Widow that he had got arrested for Nine-pence, was carried to Jail for the Officers Fees (tho' originally but a Groat more) where she lay some Years, and, at last, discharg'd the Debt by starving. Pogh, says *Tom*, that is above six Years since; I can plead the Statute to that. He that appear'd next was a Tradesman; who averr'd, in open Court, that he had been *Tom's* Client many Years, and being arrested, *Tom* undertook to find him Bail; which, to the best of his Remembrance, were two
of

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of those odd-fashion'd Faces before your Lordships. They did bail him, and justify'd; but before *Tom* brought on the Trial, the one was hang'd for Burglary, and the other died of the Pox: For which Reason new Bail was call'd for: But *Tom* would neither find new Bail; nor return the Guinea, but suffered him to be Nonsuited, and his Adversary to snap Judgment, which ruined his Credit, brought every-body upon him, and forced upon him the same way of Discharge with the last. *Tom* would have said somewhat by way of Allevation, but before he could utter a Word, And I, my Lords, said another, was kept three Years out of my just Debt, by the Connivance and Tricks of that Claret-fac'd Fellow: I employ'd him as my Attorney in that Dog-kennel of a Court: He readily got my Debtor arrested, indeed, and as readily took for Bail the two Catchpoles, I believe they are two of his present Retinue. My Debt was but Nine Pounds, and yet the two Sponges had suck'd up a Chaise and Pair, with a Silver-hilted Sword, and a deal of rich Apparel, and without paying a Farthing of the Debt; they then let the poor Wretch run away. Then, forsooth, my Lawyer sues the Bail, who prov'd Insolvent; and, after running me up a Bill of Charges, three times more than the original Debt, gravely advis'd me to pay his Bill, sit down by the Loss, and not throw away

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any more good Money after bad. But if he had stay'd a little longer on the other Side the Water, I would have made him smoke. However, I have no Apprehension, but the vile Fellow will be soon made to answer all. *Tom* now began to change all the Claret in his Face into Cyder, when another making an Offer to speak, two of the boldest of his Retinue pushed him backward, and themselves forward, and, with a Confidence suitable to the Occasion, assured the Court, they were there ready to depose, that every Word said against *Tom* was false. But the Judges, quite confounded at their Impudence, hardly retained Patience to give Sentence, which was ; That *Tom*, instead of Claret, would be allowed nothing to swallow but melted Lead ; and his Retinue should have no other Sustainance, but what they could find from the Discharge of his Fundament : For, as they had been mutually assistant in the Ruin of many, it was but just they should mutually subsist by the Ruin of one another. The Orders were obeyed as soon as uttered, and they were hurried out of Court to Execution.

As soon as they had left the Court, and all was somewhat compos'd, the Cryer call'd out for *Tim the Cozener*. No-body answering, he was call'd again, and yet no-body answer'd. At which the Cryer look'd again over his Roll, and finding he had added a

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Syllable, he call'd again properly, when a finical Beau of an Attorney cry'd out, Here am I; But with such a feminine Vociferation, that I really expected to have seen an Eunuch. There was immediately at his Heels a large Attendance, which, as the Clerk observ'd to me, was very much for so young a Proficient. But one above all the rest, who seem'd to be no Countryman of *Tim*'s, pressed up to the Bar, and, with an Assurance peculiar to Innocence, stared him full in the Face. What do you look at, quo *Tim*? Did you never see a Man before? Nor now neider, reply'd the Foreigner; but I hope it is no Affront to gaze upon a Monster. The Repartee was so picquant, that it made the Judges a little relinquish their Gravity. In short, *Tim* was the only one that kept his Countenance; tho', in my Conscience, he might have changed with the worst there, and not have lost by the Bargain. Do you know me, says the Foreigner? Not I, adds *Tim*, backing it with a Bouncer. My Lords, says the Foreigner, I speak no very good Language of his Sort, for dat Reason me ha got my Friend to put myne Case in proper *Lingue*, which me desire Monf. de Clerk may read. The Court assented, and the Clerk, taking the Paper of him, read aloud, as follows:

Seignior *Antonio Zepdaline*, Native of one of the *Greek Islands*, declares, for the Honour
of

of *England*, That being induced by the Fame of the great Humanity of the People of that Island, together with its vast Paucity of venomous Creatures, to make a Visit there ; I think myself, in good Conscience, obliged, for a Warning to all Foreigners equally curious, further to declare, that *Fame*, in those Respects, has proved herself a Liar. For I had not been long on the Place, before I experienced, to my great Affliction, Loss, and Imposition, Vintners with Consciences fouler than their Wine, and much more adulterated ; and a sort of a Viper, or Scorpion, call'd, a *Lawyer*, more poisonous, biting, and deadly than any I ever saw, read, or heard of, in any other Part of the World. The latter walk upon two Legs, like Men, till they get to your Bosom, when they bite like Asps ; they will smile in your Face like a Syren, and destroy as sure as the *Hyæna*. Speech they are Masters of, but every Word they make Use of is only to deceive and betray : They own no Religion but Interest, and disown all Relation but Money. This I have already published in foreign Parts ; and all this I am ready to make good to this unbyass'd Court of Judicature upon the Criminal before you.

Tim, at the Reading, was a little nettled and uneasy, and would several Times have interrupted the Cryer, but was as often overruled. However, when he had done, *Tim*,

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as loud as he was able, cry'd out, My Lords, I dismiss the Bill for Scandal; he has not treated me with the Respect and Honour due to Men of my Profession. I confess, some few Irregularities I may have been guilty of, and I offered to make some small Attonements, such as my own Occasions would decently admit of, to this Complainant. But—He was going on, when a Lady, of a most surprising Appearance, entered the Court, and filled every one with Wonder what should be the Motive, till, addressing herself to the Judges, she said as follows :

I am *Britannia*, and hearing the Wretch before you complain of Scandal, I am come to demand, that he may receive the Rewards of it before he be dismissed. Scandal is a Crime, every-where, of an unpardonable Nature ; but particularly deserving exemplary Punishment, when cast on Persons known to be eminent for Virtue, or Nations celebrated for Humanity. He, and such as he, it is that disgrace the Place of their Nativity, a Country famed all over the World for Hospitality and good Nature. It is not the petty Wrongs done to the lesser Part of Mankind that is to be here barely considered ; particular Injuries are accumulated in me : It is I that undergo the Burden of them all ; like the Viper Brood, they eat their Way into the World through their
Mo-

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Mother's Bowels. And the narrow-soul'd Considerations of their own private Emoluments are of more Weight with such, than either Honour, Reputation, or all the four Cardinal Virtues united. Good Names with them is nothing else but Skill in Treachery ; and a Dexterity in Fraud and Cozin is more commendatory than either Justice or Probity. Stop the Evil then as soon as possible, and let woful Experience teach the Wretches, that tho' Justice seems, at present, in a Slumber in the other World, they shall be sure here to receive the full Reward of their Demerits. Your great Example may at last prevail, and, by a wish'd-for Reformation in those upper Regions, ease you of a World of Encumbrances in their vitiligitating Pleadings, and the innumerable Clamours of the injur'd which exact them. I shall, by this Means, recover my antient Glory ; and *Britain* once more be number'd amongst the Islands, justly by the Antients, call'd *Fortunate*.

She spoke all this with a Grace somewhat near Divine, and, without staying for a Reply, took her Leave of the Court, with such a *bon main* that possess'd every one that heard her in her Favour. *Tim*, only of them all, seem'd to be possess'd with any Discontent, and had he had either Rope, Knife, or any other Convenience, I am apt to think, he would have attempted to have given all near him,

him, an Instance of his Dispondency. There were abundance of other Plaintiffs around him ready to second the Complaints already made: But the Court thinking that already made quite sufficient, after a very short Consultation, order'd the Cryer to publish the following Sentence:

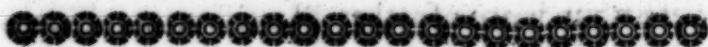
I. That on his Forehead should be branded, in legible Characters,

THE DEFAMER OF HIS COUNTRY.

II. That when that is done, a Pair of horn'd Janazaries should lead him thro' every Quarter, and in every Quarter publish him Infamous.

III. After which the Guard should take Care to see him safely stow'd in the fiery Lake, with Judas and Mabomet, there to roast with them for ever.

Tim looked very Disconsolate when he heard the Sentence, but much more so, when the Brand was brought in to execute Part of it. Methought, at the Operation, he utter'd such Imprecations and Words of Despair, with such horrible Roars, that sung every Part about me into such Agonies and Tremblings for the poor Wretch, that it was impossible for humane Nature to lie long under them without waking. And even when awake, they continu'd to have such an Influence, that I could not presently recover myself.



VISION V.

IT is related of our second-fighted Brethren of the *North*, that they are so far from looking upon the Gift as an Advantage or Excellence, that, if they could, they would part with it to any Purchaser upon very easy Terms. If it be true what is further related of such People, that Shades and Ghosts of dying Persons present themselves to their daily View before they are put into their winding Sheets, I must agree with them, that a Purchaser, if possible, would be strenuously sought after, but the Easiness of the Purchase would, in my Opinion, tempt none but Fools to buy. The Application is so natural to my own Case, that I shall not need to have a Cryer to proclaim my Uneasiness, or that I would even give a Recompence to any that would ease me of my present Burden. However, my Comfort is, that some Good may accrue therefrom to my Countrymen, and such a Hope will support a generous Spirit under much greater Inconveniences. But the Vision of this Night affected me more sensibly than any, or all, the preceding. Whether it proceeded from the Person, or the Matter, I cannot say; but

but it gave me such a Touch of the Violences to human Nature, under the Stroak of a judicial Despair, that I could almost applaud *Judas* for his Execution of himself under the *Visitation*.

As soon as compos'd to sleep, methought I was led by the same Guide thro' the same Walks toward the same Place; before I reach'd which, from the thickest Gloom of a dark Grove, such Groans, such Sighs, and piercing Ejaculations, struck my Ears, that my Guide, who would fain have enticed me forward, found it impossible to remove me. In Complaisance to the vast Concern he observ'd me in, he made a Stop, and let me have my Humour. I immediately drew up to the Place whence the Sounds came, which was dark and horred enough to inspire Melancholly into a Buffoon, and make a Libertine thoughtful. I could observe (from what Light I know not, for sure I am the Place afforded none) a Person of Gravity and some Appearance, laid on the Ground at his full Length, with a Lambskin folded up, and carefully clasp'd between his Arms, sighing and groaning at every Turn, as if resolv'd to make his Soul an Exile to his Body, at that very Instant. I made Signs to my Guide to have his Opinion whether it might be proper to interrupt him, so far as to ask him the Grounds of his Calamity; but, with a forbidding Frown, he rebuk'd me, and forc'd me

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to leave my Curiosity a little longer upon the Tenter. After two or three Groans and Sighs, not inferior to any of his former ; Wretch that I am, cry'd the Person, who shall ease me ? What Plaister for a wounded Conscience ? When I present myself before my unavoidable Judges, will they not reproach me with my putting Justice to Sale ! Will not this very Lambskin be a Witness against me ? Begon then, vile Evidence of my Infamy ? I wish now to part with thee with ten times the Ardour I once labour'd to obtain thee. O that I could have foreseen the Calamities thou hast brought upon me ! Accuser I need none : Here, here is my Accuser ; I carry it within me. Avaunt ye Widows and Fatherless, whose Cause I have prostituted over and over to Luxury and Ambition. I myself will save you the Charge of Council ; I myself will plead against myself to procure the Justice I refus'd you. But, alas ! what will all my Pains avail ? Your Remedy is impossible ; for Recompence is not within my Power to make. Redouble then up your Forces, my Dispair ; exanimate my Soul as ye have done my Body. That Stock, or Stone-like, I may be insensible of Senses. On Utterance whereof, he fetch'd a Groan so heavy, as if his Wishes had obtain'd and Spiritual Nature was itself expiring.

But, after a very little Interval, he rais'd himself up an end, in such a frantick Wildness, that

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that my Apprehensions seem'd to leave him to fear for myself, but my Guide, with a Smile, encouraging me, I kept my Ground, ye Powers, says he ! Do I accuse you ? I know full well ; I know that I am Author of my own Destiny. O cursed Folly ! Oh vain Delusions ! For, could the Fatherless forgive ; the Widow plead my Pardon ; yet still remains enough to exclude me any Eternity but the worst. Pray what had *Judas* for betraying his Master ? Thirty Pieces of Silver ; sure then I was the more conscionable Rogue of the two, that sold innocent Blood for a *Westphaly Ham*, and a Bottle of *French Claret* ? But, to say Truth, I oblig'd a Friend into the Bargain. But what Friend ? a *Black* or a *White* ? Both, both in one. Fool that I was, to lend an Ear to such a Motion. I knew him, by Report at least, to be Fornicator, Poisoner and Adulterer. A glorious Devil incarnate for a Judge to give an Ear to. Thus, *Esau*-like, I sold my Birthright for a Mess of Potage. Oh that, like him, I could as easily part with my Inheritance ! Come, come along, you infernal Janizaries ! Come and haul me to the Place allotted for me. Plagues greater than my own you cannot give me ; and yours is Company desirable beyond my own a thousand thousand times. Here he set up such Shrieks as seem'd to rend the very Welking, and the Company that came from the Stately-Fabrick at the End of
the

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the Walk, plainly shew'd, by the Hurry they were in, that they had reach'd their Ears, and brought them to enquire into the Occasion. So soon as ever the Visited had fixt his Eyes on 'em, Welcome, Welcome, says he, my Friends. Come, I'll go along with you ; for, since greater Misery is not in your Power to give, how imprudent were it to dispute your Authority ?

The poor Wretch, methought, went readily along with his Leaders, and we were following after to see the Event, when we saw a Croud of a matter of five hundred People driving a Fat-gutted Fellow before 'em, who roar'd, and ran as if for a Wager. The Croud were all arm'd with Shoemakers Straps, which, as often as they could reach him, they dispenc'd upon his Back, with so hearty a Goodwill, that but few Stroaks were given without the Blood following after. We drew a little aside, to let the Concourse pass, who were so intent upon their Work, that of twenty that we put the Question to, not one would stay to give us any Intelligence of the Occasion. We follow'd them, however, as fast as we could, and my Guide knowing all the By-ways to the Court, got me Entrance before any of 'em made their Appearance. So soon as he had put me under the Care of the Clerk, he withdrew, and left me full of Fear and Anxiety for the Frantick in the Grove. But it was not of any long Continuance ; For

I saw him immediately brought in by his Guards, and plac'd at the very Bar. I observed the same Frenzy remain'd upon him; tho', when *Minos* demanded of him who he was? he held out his Lambskin, and skook his Head, without saying a Word. *Minos* then demanded of him what brought him there? He gave a greivous Groan, and answer'd, a wounded Conscience. Which indeed, was all the Answer they could get from him to any Question they ask'd. The Judges all three had a compassionate Concern in their Countenances; yet, without more ado, they ordered him to a Cell by himself; for it was the Opinion of 'em all, that Cauldrons of Molten Lead, and Pits of lasting Fire, were only thrown away upon a Person under a wounded Conscience.

So soon as he was remov'd out of Court, and sent to his appointed Cell, before the Cryer could look over his Roll to call any new Criminal, the Fellow we had seen with the Correctors at his Tail, prest in, and put the whole Company in a sort of an Uproar. The Fellow's Back was all on a gore Blood. However, I remark'd, as soon as ever he enter'd the Place, he betook himself to the *Grand Paw*, and stept it up to the Bar as majestically as a young Granadier doing his Exercise just before he quits Guard: The long-sided Fellow began to make most grievous Complaints of the Barbarity of his Usage, and inveigh
against

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against his Persecutors, as he call'd 'em, not only in vehement, but undecent Terms. You Son of a Shoemaker, says one of 'em, hold your Babling: We know you are a Limb of the Law, but don't prate here, for you won't be paid for't. My Lords, says he, we are a Parcel of free-born Subjects, tho' his Countrymen; and he has been the Means of sending us here before him, by starving Us and our Families. We are all Members of Literature, and us'd to disperse it daily; by which we got a comfortable Livelyhood, till this Book-worm, or rather Canker-worm, interrupted our honest Traffick, and, by far-stretch'd Informations, Declarations and Warrants, made Publications so dangerous, chargable, and difficult, that Men were afraid to write, and, consequently, we having little to cry, had nothing to live upon. He would extract Treason, my Lord, out of the *Lord's Prayer*: And the *Creed* was not safe with him, unless we had Witnesses ready to prove the Ministry believ'd it. But what was worst of all, my Lord, he would prosecute one for publishing what another Man printed; and yet take no Notice of the Printer, because he was his Acquaintance. He calls himself a State Officer; to their Disbounour, sure, that employ such Rascals: He is fit for nothing but dirty Work, and therefore makes every Work dirty that he is employ'd about. The poor Man was so earnest, that he would have gone

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gone on, had not the Cryer, by Order of the Court, given him a gentle Check ; at which he made a Stop, and gave the Court Opportunity of asking the Cull, what he had to say for himself ? I am, my Lord, says he, a considerable Officer of the Court, and think it my bounden Duty to do every thing my Masters set me upon. True it is, my Post, as well as my own Profit, exacts of me a diligent Enquiry into all treasonable Books and Pamphlets. I may, perhaps, enlarge upon my Declarations a little extensively ; but that is only to demonstrate the Dexterity of my Parts, and evince my Value to my Masters ; for, when it comes to be pleaded, the Jury are Judges ; and if I am wrong, the Defendent will have Right done him. My Lord, says another that had not Patience to let him go on, I must beg leave to explain that Piece of Roguery before he proceeds. He tells the Court here, that if his Informations are wrong, the Defendant will have Right done him : But how, my Lords ? Why truly, after his Notorieties, and costing the poor Defendent perhaps all that he is worth (which he is willing to hazard rather than go to Jail) what, is this Right he cracks of ? Why, truly, a Verdict without either Costs or Charges ; so that he carries the Comfort home of being yet out of Jail, tho' perhaps this shameful Prosecutor has left him but a Hairs Breadth on this side it. In
the

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the mean time, my Lord, this shameless Druggerman works with the publick Tools, and is sure to get Money, let the Cause go which way it will, and I appeal to your Lordships, whether that is not Encouragement enough, with a Person of his Complexion, to plague the whole Commonwealth of Learning, and every Member of it, with Warrants, Informations, and Declarations, every Term throughout the Year. Besides, my Lord, there is another Expedient, which this worshipful Pettifogger makes filthy use of. If he thinks his Information will not hold Water, he delivers, nevertheless, Notice of Tryal; there is to him a Term-fee, which he charges, and is allow'd! There is the same from the poor Defendent to his Lawyer, which is charg'd, and must by him be paid. And thus, without bringing Matter to Tryal (which perhaps at first was the least of his Intention) for five or six Terms successively, Notice of Tryal shall be given, and never proceeded on, to fill his own Pockets, and empty those of the persecuted Defendants. Neither, my Lords, is this one particular Case: Half of these here present can witness, that it almost sets Particulars at Defiance. But, my Lords, says the Cull, if I have offended, I have suffer'd sufficiently for it; my Back and Sides are Witnesses of it; and I humbly desire to know by what Authority it was inflicted. Upon which, another rising up,

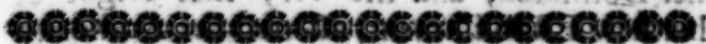
up, made his Obeisance to the Court; and undertook to answer his Question. We were waiting on the Banks of the River the coming over of the Boat (for we heard he was in it) every Man arm'd with these relative Weapons, when, seeing so many of his Accusers, he leap'd over-board, and, to have escap'd Justice, endeavour'd to go back; which the Ferryman perceiving, gave him a notable Tap with his Oar, and lay'd him along till we drew him to Land; but we gave him fair play, my Lord, and let him take Breath; when, trusting to his Length of Shanks, he thought to have given us the Go-by; but to be sure, my Lords, as it was a Duty incumbent upon us to bring him before your Lordships for Justice, we hasten'd after him all we could, and, as any one of the Company got within Reach, fearfull he might never reach him again, he was sure to give him, by way of Remembrance, a Token of Strapado. Justice, my Lords, is all we poor Creatures ask for all our Sufferings, and if your Lordships can think what little we have given him sufficient, it is our Duty to acquiesce; if not, we shall acquiesce in the further Judgment of the Court. Their Lordships, without consulting, order'd him the same Exercise every Tern throughout the Year; and under the Discipline of the same Hands: But the Fellow began to be a little unruly, and make Resistance; at last he leap'd over the Bar, and,

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as I apprehended, with an Intention to attack the Gentlemen upon the Bench. Out of my great Zeal for the Preservation of Justice, methought, I was going to give him a home Stroke over his Pole, which not being in the Way, my Fist fell upon the Wainscote, and broke my Knuckles in such a manner as awak'd me effectually.



VISIONS



VISION VI.

IF a Man would consider how small a Wound gives him great Pain, or how little Pleasures are apt to draw him aside from the Pursuit of noble Ends, the Result of both would convince him of his own Weakness, and the great Indiscretion of reposing any Confidence in either his Strength of Mind or Body. The Number of Idiots and odd Births will never let it enter into the Imagination of the most absurd, that Man was his own Operator, and therefore, in my Opinion, his many visible Instances of Weakness will lay him under a Necessity of seeking a Resource in some Power superior to himself, who necessarily did create, and therefore must sustain him. The little Breaches made upon my Knuckles, caus'd me so very much Inquietude for a Night or two, that I could not lay my Eyes together; for which Reason, not having the Art of many in the World, of dreaming awake, I did not dream at all; for as soon as Sleep, or even Slumber, began to take hold of me, Pain made her Mitimus, and sent her away from the Door as Country Justices do sturdy Beggars.

But proper Application having alleviated my little Maladies, Sleep came again to claim

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her Dominion, and the very first Night of her new Establishment, asserted her Authority so effectually, that she would not give Room to dreaming, or any other Interruption. The Night following she yielded a little to natural Propensity; but took care to convey me to a Station, if not out of the World, hardly in it, though it was in the most pleasant Part of *Scotland*. Variegated Plads, Oat-meal Faces, and genuine Beards and Eye-brows, were still before me; so that my Fate seem'd to have much of that of *Midas*, only variable in the Metal. Bless me, thought I, what can be the Meaning of all this; when a smart Gentleman, in a Vestment quite different in Colour to his Beard, advanc'd up to my very Nose; And what have you, says he, to say against my being a Lawyer? nothing in the World, reply'd I: I don't so much as call you to Remembrance. Nor I you, says he, if you go to that. And yet—he stopp'd there, and gave me a little Respite for Recollection. I then soon call'd to mind I had seen him a sort of a Servant in a noble Family, tho' a Degree above a Livery, and yet no Shame to his Master or himself. I do remember somewhat of you now, quo I. And what, I pray, makes you here? You know my Lord was both Orator and Poet, and often us'd to commend my pretty way of speaking. He dying, to shew my Approbation of so profound a Judgment, I

resolv'd

resolv'd to take the Gown upon me ; so mustering up, among my Acquaintance, as much Money as would equip me, I took large Chambers, furnish'd 'em with very few Books, and walking to *Westminster*, and about the Hall, in a Term or two I fell into pretty Business. I was soon after advis'd to take a Wife ; and finding one to my purpose, that had more Money than Wit, I soon grew greater than ever, and have sent already to *Edinburgh* for half a dozen Writers, as they call 'em, whom, on their Arrival, I intend to make Attorneys of ; and I doubt not, by their Means, in a little Time to make one of the first Stars at the Bar : Nay, to let you into a Secret, by the Help of my Countrymen, I am not in Dispair of being the third Man in the United Kingdom before I die : But what a Wretch am I ? My Clients stay for me. If you have any Commands for your old Friend, you shall find him fight your Cause as bold as a *Higlander*.

He had hardly made me happy by the Loss of his Company two Minutes, when a Person of another Make, but of the same distinguishing Tokens, accosted me very respectfully. Sir, says he, did you know the Person that last parted from you ? a meer Mushroom, take my Word for it, and knows nothing of the Matter he has taken upon him. And how should he ? He never was bred to the Law. Then I may presume, Sir, said I,

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that you were: For that Matter, says he, I have made it my Practice ever since the *Union*, and have appear'd at the Bar of the Lords many and many a Time, especially on Appeals of my own Countrymen: Not but I am very well heard in all the Courts, tho' I confess sometimes the Brogue upon my Tongue will not let me be so well understood. But it is pretty well wore off by Custom; for Use, you know, makes Perfectness. In fine, if you have any Commands for me, you will hear of me at *Young-Wills* in *Buckingham Court*: I lodge hard by, but, for the sake of my Health, I have made choice of an Apartment three Story high, which makes it somewhat troublesome to some of my Clients; but Health is preferable to Wealth. There you'll find me on all Occasions ready to serve you.

Bless me, thought I, at parting, have we not horn'd Cattle enough of our own, but we must be beholden to the *Union* for such as want 'em? I hope that is not the only valuable Consideration for poor *England*: If it be, the Equivalent Money was parted with in an ill Hour. What's that you say of the Equivalent Money, Sir? cry'd one nearer my Backside than I thought for. That it was three hundred thousand Pounds, Sir, quo I. A very valuable Sum ever sin King *Jammy* the first's Days. Troth is it, Sir, quo he; and well hgg'd oout, were it not? I had a mind to carry on the Humour, and so continu'd the Drollery

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Drollery. In geud fath, Sir, quo I, I well ken a Friend of mine whose Back-door was open, and twice six-penny-worth Sterling, of roasted Rhubard stopp'd the Gap and made all weel. Yee's a pleasant Man, and very marrily dispos'd, quo he, and Ise like yee weel: but better should I like yee could yee help me to any Business. What Business do you want, said I? What is your Employ? In my een Country, quo he, Ise was what yee here call a Lawyer: But hearing what bonny Doings yee have in these Parts, I am come up to make my Fortune. I set out with about twa dozen more, Ise think there lack'd but een of the Number; but *Sawny* being sound a Head, and light of Heel, made haste afore to make his Market. Well kenning the awd Saw saies, first come first farrowed. You are certainly right, say'd I; and one of your own Countrymen parted with me this Moment, who would have done your Business effectually. I ken not his Name, but you may hear of him at *Young-Wills* in *Buckingham Court*, near *Charing-Cross*. Gin yee'l gi it me down in script Ise thank you, quo he, and gin he is my Countryman, Ise sure to smell him oout. He pull'd out his Pencil, and wrote down what I had told him: Upon which he thank'd me, and took his Leave.

The superstitious Heathens, on their meeting an unpromising Face, look'd upon it as ominous, and I think the *Mabometans* are so

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much of the same Persuasion, that on any like Rencontre, they return to their Dwellings, and sit on their Sophas all Day after smoaking Tobacco, and swallowing Sherbet, till they go to sleep. Tho' I despise Superstition as much as any Man, three such several Attacks successively, put me out of my common way of thinking; and tho' the Oddness of the Accident could not make me return home, it made me a little cautious of my Steps, and, as the Proverb advises, I took care to look before I leap'd: But human Caution is all fruitless against Destiny; which I can better admit of in simple Actions, than in such as must call the Goodness of Omnipotence in Question. By Destiny, therefore, it is plain I mean no more than what we commonly intend by Luck or Fortune, and sure no Man but will agree, that mine was of the hardest, after three such Escapes, to fall incontinently into another worse than all the foregoing.

Shakespear (and some of our modern Playrights, follow him in that, tho' unable to follow him in any of his brighter Excellencies) is apt, in his Scenes, to carry his Audience from one Country to another, tho' distant perhaps a thousand Miles. However improbable, and therefore contrary to Rule in the Dramatick way, all who know any thing of the Laws of dreaming, must be forc'd to agree, that it is consistant enough with Dreamers,

Dreamers, like Witchés, to travel through the Air on Broomstafs, and pass from *England* to the *Orcades* in the Twilight of a Thought. I was in this Situation when Curiosity, or rather some malevolent Planet, led me to a Clamp of People that were gather'd together. They seem'd to be very busy, but what they were about, I could not discover, till I advanc'd very near 'em; I then found it was a Man and a Wife that had three hopeful Lads to their Sons, then all in Company, who were taken up with Paternal Care how to dispose of them to the best Advantage in the World. The Man was for keeping two of 'em, at least, on their own Homstead, and sending *Sawny*, if any, to seek his Fortune. He was a pretty Scholar enough, he said; could write and speak *Latin*, as *Mess James* ayer'd, and therefore 'twere pity he should bury the Talents, which Providence and they had indow'd him with, at home. The Mother, on the other side, declar'd herself fully for taking the whole Benefit of the *Union*, and sending for that purpose every one of them to the *South* of the *Tweed*; for *Janet* their Daughter was a hale, sturdy Lass, and could farrow the Homstead well enough: Who but she, I pray, quo the Wife, has every Year carry'd out all our Dung to Land; and has she not drove, or held Plow, as well as the best een of all? Therefore I am for sending your Lubber Loons awl away to earn

their Food abroad, and leaving only Janet and we to our selves. Sawney, you ken, has carry'd many a Pack, and kenning weel the Road, he can guid his Brethren the right Way; there let 'em each 'een take his Course, and find Progue to their several Weemb's. The geud Man seem'd to be satisfied with the profound Reasons of his Mate. However, quo he, let us resolve, before we part with them, what Occupations they shall each of them follow; Sawney has already more than aulse travel'd with his Pack at his Back; therefore I'll vote for his continuing a Merchant still. The Wife, methought, did not disapprove of the Husbands Allotment for Sawney, but seem'd resolv'd, however, that the two younger should be both of 'em Practisers of the Law: For, says she, as my Betters tell me, it is a thriving Calling, and many of our een Country have already experienc'd the good Fruits of it, and whole Troops have follow'd, in order to do the same. Let not the Lads lose their * Tunities. But why two of a Trade, cry'd the Husband? Trades are not so scarce that we need to stint ourselves. Besides, two of a Trade, as the Saying is, never agree. The better for that, quo the Wife; for then they are more likely to cut out Work for one another. Did you 'eer see, Sir, any of our own † Writers

* Opportunities by way of Abbreviation.

† Writers in Scotland is Latin for Atornies.

ters that could get Plad to his Back, gin he did not quarrel himself to set others a quarrelling? The Contest seem'd to grow pretty stiff, when, having stood, methought, a pretty while a silent Hearer, my Opinion of the Matter was ask'd, and imagining, as in my own Country often happens, the grey Mare to be the better Horse, I incontinently gave my Vote on her Side. When the Defendant very roughly demanded of me my Reasons. She has given you, said I, one substantial one already, that they will be able to play into one anothers Hands the better, and you know there is no Sport in Tennis, if the Ball ligs still. To which I will add, that there is no fear of Pastime while the World indures; for so long as there are People, there will be quarrelling; and as long as People are quarrelsome, there will be Work for the Limbs of the Law from Head to Foot. These Reasons seem'd to them both so weighty, that the Lads were all three severally ask'd the Question; but *Sawney*, of all three, was the only refractory Body. He said, he had carry'd Burden long enough, therefore he was resolv'd to be a Gentleman as well as either of his younger Brethren. Besides, continu'd he, Is it not plain before our Eyes what a great Man *Thomas*, our Neighbour's Son, is grown? For een Foot-boy to keep another is no little Advance, and He sure, if Mefs *James* say true, He speak spranter Latin than he. Say what

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what you will, therefore, I'm resolv'd to turn Advocate, or Barrister, or some like like; and let my Brethren, an they will, fill up the Places under me. When Ise come to commence Lord Chief Justice, or Lord Chancellor, as I may do in time, I shall be better able to provide for 'em; and tho', like others, I should not care to own my own Parents, I can privately send 'em Money, which is always a Comodity much wanted in their own Country. *Janet* too, gin she behave herself weel, and carry out *Dung* a Year or two longer, shall have her Silk Gown and Female Frillery suitable; for Ise fall love to encourage Industry, and to see my Family-relations thrive as well as better Folks. Then, turning to me, what say you, Sir? Is not *Sawney* in the right? Is not the Feild of the Law wide enough for three of Us? I look'd round about, methought, to observe which was the safest Side to determine on, when, observing *Maugy* the Mother smiling, and both Sides her Mouth drawn to a full Simper, (tho' the Father and the two younkers carry'd no like favourable Symtoms) I ventur'd to give my Verdict on *Sawney's* Side: At which Moment, thinking I had robb'd them of those Dignities to which they imagin'd they had no less than equal Title, they came up to my very Nose, and, with clutch'd Fists, seem'd ready to attack me. Like a Man of Prudence, I began to expostulate and mollify, as well as I could,

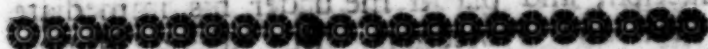
could, telling them there were Places of Honour in the Verge of the Law sufficient to serve every one. This said I, pointing to *Sawney*, may be Lord Chancellor; and you, said I, pointing to the next, will fill the Seat of one of the Lord Chief Justices to a Hair; and what should hinder, I pray, said I, but you may fill a third, and having Pensions above your natural Merits, you may all become *English* Peers; and then, heigh for a new House——Tho' what I had said seem'd to have mollify'd in general, I could not but take notice, that a sort of a black crape cover hung over the Face of the younger. Younger Brothers are to a Proverb very apt to be ambitious, and nothing less would serve him, forsooth, but the Lord Chancellorship. Father and Mother in vain pleaded Seniority and Birth-right. *Jammy* was a sturdy Lad, and could by no means be got to have a little Opinion of his own Parts. I saw, methought, the Storm a coming, and exerted my small Portion of Rhetorick towards a new Mitigation; but, as if I had insulted his Intellects in the most sensible Part, he flew upon me with all the Begeriness of a *French* Trooper; but whether his Fire would have been as soon extinguish'd, I cannot say; for *Sawney*, whom my Vote had made my Friend, came between, and soon after lay'd his Brother at the Heels of him. The Mother, immediately here-upon, set up such a Squall as fetch'd poor

Janet

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Janet out of her *Scotch* Palace, who seeing her Brother on the Ground, concluded me the Aggressor, and came furiously upon me, to let me taste the Back-side of her Good-will. I consider'd, that to resist a Woman is equally as dishonourable as running away from her, stood some little time in Suspence what to do; when, lifting up her Cherry-red, brawny Arms, and offering to give a Blow that I thought inevitable, the very Apprehension drove Sleep from my Eyes, and I wak'd: But so soon as I had a little recover'd, I could not help observing within myself, how weak a Creature is Man, that, sleeping or wakeing, Shadows and Trifles take up his Imagination: Neither is it in the Power of that Reason he boasts of, to ward against ridiculous Interruptions and Amusements of no apparently good Tendency.





VISION VII.

ACTS of Benevolence are much more agreeable, and therefore suitable to human Nature, than Acts of Revenge: For, tho' the malicious Man may find a sort of Pleasure in the Accomplishment of his envious Designs, it is so transient, that it can hardly be said to have a Duration sufficient to entitle it to the Name of Pleasure; and when over, a new, but false, Ambition of the same Nature, so excruciates the Faculties, that no wise Man can think the Accomplishment deserves the Name of Pleasure, or is worth seeking after. But the Benevolent Man is doubly happy in the Pleasure he receives himself, and communicates to others. A Pleasure as substantial as it is extensive, and striking upon the Soul, seems to partake in its indissoluble Immortality.

Under this pleasing Contemplation, I lay'd me down to my Repose, when, as if I was immediately to reap a Taste of the Fruits of it, I found myself without the Assistance of a Guide, or the least Fatigue or Hurry (as had before been customary) in the very Arms of the Clerk of the Court, who embrac'd me, methought,

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methought, with a wonderful deal of Satisfaction, and plac'd me under his immediate Care and Protection. But taking Notice, that only *Minos* was then on the Bench, and asking him the Reason of it, I was answer'd, that it was Seal-day, and set apart to finish the Tryals of the Lawyers of this Week: For, continu'd he, the Croud of 'em is grown so very great, that, to afford every one of 'em a distinct Hearing, would take up more Time than the several Branches of Delinquency of others attending would allow. *Minos*, therefore, being most noted for his benign Temper, stays behind to dispatch the Lawyers, while his two Coadjutors are settling, in another Court, all Things ready for Examination of the Vintners, who come next in order for Tryal.

Silence proclaim'd, the first call'd was the Band of Pensioners. As soon as the Words were out of his Mouth, advanc'd to the Bar, with a vast deal of Intrepidity, or rather Northern Assurance, a Clump of ill-favour'd Wretches, who seem'd no other than the uncouth Spawn of Catchpoles, Bailiffs and Pickpockets. I clapt my Hands into my Pockets by way of Security, and then ventur'd to ask my Protector, what they were? These are, said he, *Wapping Attorneys*, a Tribe of Rogues so well known, that their very Names render all Evidence unnecessary. And yet I could not but take Notice, that there

was

LAW VISIONS. 89

was one that call'd himself *King* of them, who had a little of a better Appearance, than most of the others, both as to Apparel and Visage. I found, soon after, that he was appointed the Mouth of the whole, and advancing to the Bar a little before the rest, he desir'd to be heard in Behalf of himself and Brethren. *Minos* told him, he knew beforehand, he had little to say for either: However, if he would promise Brevity, he would allow him more Indulgence than he had ever allow'd any he was employ'd against. With a Phiz much bloted with Gin and Porter, and an Air distinguishingly effectual, after a Hem or two, by way of Preparation, he open'd himself in the following Words;

May it please your most gracious Lordship, I am delegated by these my Brethren before you, in Behalf of myself and them, to offer some Reasons by way of Mitigation in their Favour. They do not appear before your Honour like common Beggars in Rags and Tatters to bespeak your Consideration: The Drapery they appear in, is their natural Robes, and if I appear a little better, it is owing to the great Goodness of a certain Jailor; to whom, I confess, I had done some dirty Services; for which Reason, he contributed to equip me. As for these poor Comrogues of mine, my Brethren, you will be pleas'd to consider, my Lord, the Place of their Abode, and their Way of living. A Quar-
tern

ern of Geneva, my Lord, is their Term-fee, and if they ever are so happy to recieve ready Money, half Six-pence is the utmost they expect down for a Court-Appearence. Not but if a responsible Client does offer, which is not often, they take care to evidence their Diligence in their Functions, and make him, now and then, find them a Beef-stake, and a digesting Dram of Rum, or Brandy. This, my Lord, was our way of living on t^h other side the Water, and I dare appeal to your Lordship, if it would not be hard if those who starv'd, or very near it, above Ground, should come here, under Ground, to be punish'd with accumulative Penalties. I thought, to say'd *Mimos*, interrupting him, what your Harangue would amount to. You plead a Mitigation of Penalties, because you have somewhat suffer'd above, which, I confess, is somewhat out of the common Course of the World. However, I take your Practices to have been of that Nature, that no worldly Punishments can answer the Demerits. Therefore, directing him to a Troop of horn'd Janazaries ready at Hand, Take 'em away, say'd he, and throw 'em all together in that burning Lake which their Demerits call for, and which only can compensate.

He had hardly utter'd these Words, when a screaming Voice or two was heard from among 'em, crying, Not Us, my good Lord,

Lord, we are all Professors of the *Kings Bench* and *Common Pleas*; we do not live about *Wapping*; we are no *Wapping Attorneys*. Upon hearing of which, *Minos* demanded how they came there? Indeed, my Lord, said one for the rest, we were deluded; we saw 'em a great Company, and believing we might the better escape in a Croud, we thrust in among them. But——Nay, said *Minos*, if that be the Case, take what you sought for——Nor did the Janazaries stay to separate them, but hurry'd all along under the first Sentence.

I could not, for my part, have thought to have found a more despicable Crew than the last, but Nature is wonderful in the minutest of her Operations. There press'd to the Bar, immediately on the Dispatch of the last Tribe, such a Parcel of squinting, ill-look'd Virmin, as I never before saw, and in such Shoals, and with such inharmonious Tones as those Bastard-bees about Privies are usually heard to make in the Heat of Summer. I ask'd the Clerk who they were? who smiling to see my Concern and Fright (for I could not for my Heart conceal it) he told me, they were *White-Chapel Lawyers*. But, withal, advis'd me not to be affraid, for he dare assure me they would be of small Duration. And so, indeed, it seem'd to fall out; for, having heard by the way of the Fate of their Neighbours, the *Wappingers*, to save the

the Court and themselves Trouble, they one and all mov'd to be sent away where his Worship should please, provided it was not to the same Pit with the last, which, they aver'd, would be the greatest Disgrace that ever be-fell 'em. Their Motion was granted, and a new Set of Janazaries were immediately ready at Hand to conduct 'em.

Minos, being willing to make what Dispatch he could, order'd the Clerk to summon, at once, all the Attorneys throughout all the Counties in *England*, to make their personal and immediate Appearance. Upon which, there came such Crouds as I never before saw. But as there must be a first of the Croud, be the Croud never so great, the Demi Barrister of *Bardnab Castle* prov'd to be the Man. He came in a great Hurry, but it was not to his Trial, but to move the Court, that his County, being the largest in the Kingdom, might be last call'd. Why, said the Cryer, you were all call'd together, and, I am of Opinion, must all answer together; and that you may easily do; for Country Attornies will be Country Attornies go where you will; you have but one short Term to make up your Issues in; but the poor Country groans under your Diligence all the Year round. *Minos* anticipated the Complaints he perceiv'd were ready to be made, and bid the Cryer hold his Tongue. At which, an Attorney, a Borderer, thinking the

the Day their own, humbly mov'd his Honour, that he might stand committed, and be oblig'd to answer upon Interrogatories; at the same Time offering his Service, and assuring his Lordship, he would draw 'em up so tightly, that he'd defy an *Irishman*, nay, a Six-Session'd Criminal at the *Old Baily*, to get clear. But *Minos* not at all inclin'd to Pleasantry or Jest, told him, that since he was so good at drawing up Interrogatories, he would take leave for once to interrogate him without. And then ask'd him, if he ever knew *Wicked Will*? Who he, says the Rogue of consummate Assurance, as well as any Man on Earth. And he tells me, says *Minos*, if there was a greater Rogue on Earth than himself, it was you. I cannot impute it to any Compunction, but rather out of a Hope of cajoling this Court, as he had done many a Court on Earth, that voluntarily he confess'd all his several Scenes of Villany: Barrettry, Champertey, Perjury, Lying and Oppression, made some part of his Detail: Nevertheless, concluding with this Encomium upon the rest of his Brethren, that list 'em all round to the Bottom, we should find never a Barrel the better Herring: For, said he, tho' some may be found that carry their Matters more swimmingly than others, yet in the main we are all alike. He is gon to receive the just Reward of his vast Demerits, and, if you have no more to say for yourselves than to delay

Justice

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Justice, I cannot see but it is the best way for you all to follow after as fast as you can.

At this almost severe Sentence, for it was not yet wholly pronounc'd, one press'd forward, and desir'd to be heard. His Aspect bore a good deal of what we call Reverend and Humanity, and good Nature was so well intermixt with Jollity, that I found myself retain'd on his Side before he utter'd a Sillable. If *Minos* had not seem'd to have the same Sentiments, I believe in my Heart and Soul I should have risk'd the Displeasure of the Court, and have spoke in his Favour. But the best of it was, there was no need of it; *Minos*, as if he saw into the Sentiments of the Man, mildly bid him speak what he had to say. Encourag'd by this Permission, I am, said he, one of those Men call'd Attorneys; I have long practic'd my Calling; but if the Poor have been the better for me, and the Rich Oppressor only worse, I dare not dispute your Commiseration any more than your Justice. That this is Truth, I desire not to be my own Trumpeter; hundreds in my own, and Counties adjoining, can witness for me, many of which are here present. Errors, Mistakes and Frailties, as a Man, I must acknowledge; but if those Errors, Mistakes, and Frailties tended to no Mans Damage but my own, no Man having ought to lay to my Charge as to Practice, I hope, to wish for Mercy is not criminal, and that I may be

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pity'd, if not acquitted. Examine, my Lord, my Witnesses; there are many of them with you, tho' not a Tythe of what will come hereafter.

He declar'd all this with such a modest Assurance, and it was attended with such a prodigious Clamour of Assent from the Middle of the Croud, that *Minos* was forc'd to order the Cryer to proclaim, that there was no Need of the Appearance of any Witnesses, for that the Cause was over. Upon which, reaching out his Hand, he lifted him to the Seat just under him; and bade him sit by the Clerk in Court, saying, he did not know but he might have farther Occasion for him. Methought I was so overjoy'd at it, that I made room for him with all the Pleasure imaginable, and paid him the same Respect I would have done a Judge.

Encourag'd by this, methought came up to the Bar, the veriest Son of a Whelp that ever Eyes were laid on. The modest Assurance which had pleas'd so much in the last, seem'd to be wholly transmuted to the full Reverse, as if our Law-Alchymist had study'd the Art, not of transmuting Copper into Gold, but Gold into Brass. My Lord, says he, with an immoveable Front, if good Deeds are so acceptable, pray hear a few of mine. My Friend and Neighbour there, Mr. Bro- boasts, and I believe very justly, of his Goodness to the Poor: I believe I may venture

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ture to say much more of my own, without Vanity. Twenty, I am sure I am within Compass (should I double the Number, perhaps I should not enlarge) poor Farmers, my Lord, that could not pay me the Money they ow'd me—— what does your Lordship think I did? Why very kindly, and full of Compassion! I took their own Bonds; and sure I am some of them remain unpaid to this Day. Look you, my Lord, I have brought one honest Witness along with me; and one, your Lordship knows, is, in common Acceptation, is as good as a thousand. *Minos* knit his Brows, aghast at the Forwardness of the Fellow, resolving to give his Impudence a Rebuke, tho' at the Expence of a little Patience: So directing himself to the plain Country Fellow he had brought along with him, Well, says *Minos*, and what were you in the other World? A Farmer, says he. And what, says *Minos*, have you to say for this Lawyer? That, at his Persuasion, I got him to arrest a Man for me, a Neighbour of mine, for three Pounds; but I do not know how it came to pass, but I was cast, and he came to me after for Charges: But I was not able to pay him, so he took my Bond for the Money. Look you, my Lord, says the Attorney, did not I tell you true? And how much, says *Minos*, was the Bond for? Seven and Thirty Pounds, no more, says the Farmer. Did you pay him
any

LAW VISIONS. 97

any Part of it? says *Minos*. Part of it, says the Farmer. Nay, Mess, I paid all; and then I dy'd. At this the whole Croud burst out into a loud Laugh; and the Lawyer was order'd into a Lake apart.

Upon this I could perceive a great Nestling and Justling among the Lawyers, not to come nearer, but to get as far off as they could. One of the Tribe, neither of the leanest or least Size, had squeez'd himself thro' to the very Bottom of the Hall, just to the Portal; when he was seiz'd by another, who prov'd a Match for him, and dragg'd him by the Collar, thro' the same Throng, up to the very Bar. My Lord, cries he, I have been seeking this sly Dog all over, and could not set Eyes on him, till now that I met him stealing himself away thro' the Portal. I am sure he is guilty enough to be sensible of it; for I am not the only one, by an Hundred, that he has brought before your Worship before their Time: For my Part, he, and his Brother-Rogue on the other side, divided Verdicts so long, that I was forc'd to part with my Estate for little more than what his Bills came to, and sell my Coach and Horses to buy Carts to husband a little Farm I was necessitated to subsist upon; and he took occasion to drive me thence, because my Neighbours were apt to throw my Usage in his Teeth. My poor Wife broke her Heart upon it, and three of her Children were drove

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out

out to Service by it ; for he would not let me rest where-ever I went, but was always plaguing me with one Demand or other, that, to get rid of him, I was glad to get hither ; and, thank my Stars, he did not long survive, but is come to answer all before your Honour. My Lord, says the Lawyer, trembling, this is a Court of Justice, and no Man, in a Court of Justice, is to be condemn'd unheard. My Accuser says I was his Lawyer ; and he says true. He accuses me of dividing Verdicts with the Attorney of his Adversary : If ever I did it, my Lord, it was in his Service, to avoid a Trial he was not altogether prepar'd for, in order to bring it on with greater Force the next Assizes : And the Event shew'd the Wisdom of the Thing, and we always had a Verdict in our Turns. This naturally enhanc'd the Charge ; and my Bills running very high, which he was not able to discharge, I took his Estate in Payment, and paid him the Overplus : Nay, I over-paid him, my Lord : For I had omitted many Articles, and had forgot to charge Interest of all the Money I had advanc'd ; and, dunning him for these Omissions, he would persuade your Lordship to put it to the Account of Persecution : But your Lordship is Master of more Perspicuity than to credit him. True it is, I now live in the House that once was his ; and his Tenants are apt to twit me for it : But it is my Frugality that irritates their Spleen;

Spleen ; for, tho' I take care to live in Plenty in my own Territories, I can see no Reason why the poor Rogues around me, should be the better for an Affluence they envy. *Mimos*, at this, knit his Brows, and shook his Head ; and not being able to wait for Witnesses, which he found were needless, he order'd him, without more ado, to be thrown into a Pit within Cry of his last Brother, where their reciprocal Groans might advance each other's Misery.

I could not but observe, that, after this, there was a total Terror ; and that none offer'd to press up to the Bar, as they before us'd to do. And yet a little Whipster of the Law, methought, danc'd about, as if he imagin'd that he could say somewhat to the Purpose, if he could flatter himself with any Prospect of a Hearing. He cock'd up his little Chin, he smil'd, he spruc'd himself, and us'd all the pretty Arts of Adulation to recommend himself, that I was really in pain for him, for fear of a Disappointment. My Friend, the Clerk in Court, took Notice of him, as well as I ; and he seem'd to be actuated with the same Curiosity as myself, to hear what he had to offer. His Drapery did by no means lessen our Curiosity ; for he was elegantly express'd in a Tye-Wig, Scarlet Coat, Embroider'd Waistcoat, Velvet Breeches, Red Stockins and Shoes exactly Feminine : And thus, like a perfect Butterfly in

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the Height of Day, he danc'd from Side to Side, as if the Quicksilver of his Brains had quite forsaken his Head, and was fallen into his Heels. My Friend and I could hardly forbear more than smiling. Encourag'd by which, little Master advanc'd a little; and, after a short Pause, My Lord, says he, it is very true, my Daddy did place me in one of the Inns of Court, to study the Law; but I was wiser, I thank him: For, knowing myself Heir to a good Estate, instead of *Coke upon Littleton*, I read *Bisb* and *Rymer*, and, in the Opinion of all my young Brotherhood, in a little Time became a notable Proficient. This naturally led me forward to Plays and Masquerades; and who but I to gallant the Ladies thither. At last, my pretty Parts, as they were pleas'd to phrase it, admitted me into a Society at a Coffee-house near my Chambers, notoriously famous for Hobbism, Infidelity, and Free-Thinking; so that I spent my Hours most luxuriantly, and without troubling myself with the Thought of any thing more than what to eat, drink, or wear. But this, my Lord, was my Bane: I feasted myself into an Inflammation; and am come here, my Lord, to cool myself, I suppose. However, my Lord, you see I am no Lawyer; and therefore not within your present Purview; for which Reason I should take it kindly if you'd send me back, for one Fifty or a Hundred Years, to the Place from whence I came.

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came. The Guards set up such a hollow-Horse-Laugh at this, as made the very Roof ring. But *Minos* order'd him to be set by, till his Coffee-House Fraternity came upon their Trials; and the Row of Janizaries dispos'd of him accordingly, without heeding his Complaints, that they rumpled his Clothes, or put his Wig in Disorder.

Scarce was that young Stripling carry'd away, when another of somewhat the same Age, tho' of a different Species, came to supply his Place; and, with abundance of innocent Assurance, My Lord, says he, mine will be the hardest Case that ever was, if I am punish'd, since I shall suffer for other People's Faults. A good old Aunt of mine, willing, as having Money enough, to put me out into the World, plac'd me a Clerk to an eminent Attorney. I was the youngest of Seven; and yet, my Lord, any Two might have done all the Business he had to do: Consequently, my Lord, I was to lye by till my senior Clerks made Room for me, to deliver a *Subpœna*, or carry out a *Declaration*, being the highest Employ I arriv'd at for a Year or two. That over, I began to learn to fill up a Bond, or copy a Writing of no very great Moment; and in this a Year or two more was wasted: So that, when I was gradually advanc'd towards a Station of Understanding, and fit for the Tricks of my Trade, my Clerkship was near expiring; and yet;

as near as it was, I expir'd before it. Indeed, my Master us'd to Sugar-plum me up, and say to all his Clients, that I should make as pretty a Clerk as any he ever brought up; but I hope, my Lord, I shall not be responsible for mere Possibilities. I can assure your Lordship, in a Law-Way, I never did Wrong to Man, Woman, or Child (for myself, I mean) and if any such thing was done, by following his Orders, I see him here in Court, and humbly submit it, that he himself may answer for them. For my part, I have seen more of the Folly and Vanity of the other World, since I came here, than ever I did while I liv'd there: I desire, therefore, not to be sent back to the Place whence I now look upon it that I have had so lucky an Escape; but dispose of me as in your great Goodness you shall deem meet. I shall be satisfy'd.

These Words were deliver'd with so much Modesty and Freedom, that *Minos*, with a Smile, call'd two Spirits, of a most excellent and singular Aspect, and bade them wait on him to those ever-fragrant Groves where the Virtuous only reside, till they are call'd to take their Places in more glorious Stations. I could not observe one discontented Countenance in the whole Concourse: The Sentence pleas'd; and gave his quondam Master so much Self-Satisfaction, that, hoping to make a Merit of his Clerk's Advancement, tho' he was before among the Sneakers, he now turn'd

turn'd Tail, and came up to the very Bar. There was not so much Difference in their Countenances from their two Ages, as there appear'd from their different Dispositions. A Snake's Skin, tho' cast, retains its natural Spots; but it is peculiar to the Diamond, to shine most in Darknes. As soon as he was got near, I thank your Lordship, cries the old Fox, I condignly thank your Honour, for your great Favour to little *Roger*: I always thought he would deserve it; and, indeed, I took a vast deal of Pains with him. I dearly lov'd the Boy; and, if your Honour would have the Goodness to indulge me so far, should be glad to have some Conversation with him. I take upon me to assure your Lordship, my Time should be wholly taken up in giving him virtuous Instructions, such as your Honour should say he should not be the worse for. The Judge, methought, look'd very sour at this Address; tho', in all Probability, it might have had another Effect in some other Courts. But *Minos* demanding if he was the Youth's Master, he boldly answer'd, he was. Give the Cryer your Name, says *Minos*; and let him call it. On which the old *Cinque and Quatre* began to shuffle and cut; but, after a little Pause, gives the Cryer a Name, and he call'd out accordingly, *Timothy Sell-cause*. Immediately appear'd a great Number of Complainants; but, when they came near to look

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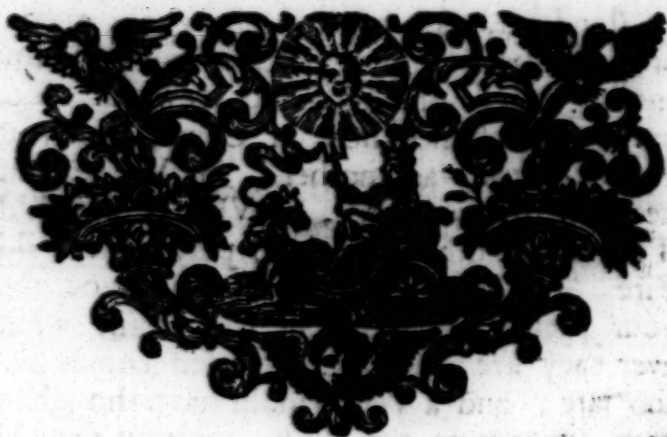
him in the Face, not one of them all knew him. After a little Surprize on both Sides, *Minos* demanded the Meaning of it: My Lord, says one of them, if this is the Villain I came to appear against, he has chang'd Vizors with some-body to put a Cheat upon us. Vizor, cries another; ay, and Person too; unless he is grown fatter in these nether Regions, than ever he would allow himself to grow in the upper. A stingy, Lath-gutted Rascal! he was worse than the worst of *Pharaoh's* lean Kine; for tho' he devour'd whole Parishes, Church and all, he never seem'd to fatten upon it. The Lawyer, finding he had made an ill Choice, would fain have stole off; but two that held him fast, discover'd the Roguery, and acquainted his Lordship, that he had taken a wrong Name upon him. *Minos*, highly exasperated at the Insult, rose up, and, with an angry Brow, said, And would you go to the Youth in the Seats of Blifs? No! He is gone where you can never go. However, you shall be sent to a Place more suitable to your Deserts: For, since you thought good to take Shelter under a Name so very notorious, I may conclude you would never take one worse than your own. Take him hence, therefore, and place him Chin-deep in burning Sulphur, till *Timothy Sell-cause* comes to take his own Name from him.

Minos

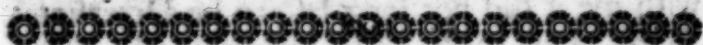
Minos was immediately obey'd; and the Two that stopt the Criminal under Sentence, happening to have been two of his Clerks, and pretending that much of their Merit would have appear'd manifest on his Trial, one of them humbly mov'd, that he might be brought back, and arraign'd in his own proper Name: But *Minos* over-rul'd it, and advis'd 'em to be satisfied with the Sentence; for if your Merits are only founded on the Demerits of others, you are but in a woful Condition. Your own Actions are what you are to stand and fall by. When those appear properly before the Court, it will be Time enough to talk of Merit and Reward. You have one Instance here in Court, and your Fellow-Clerk was another; for Virtue must be assuredly rewarded, as Vice is punish'd. To imagine otherwise, is to play with Wild-Fire. Not that I would persuade you that your present Imaginations will avail, whatever they are: Repentance itself comes here too late; and a Who-would-have-thought-it may exaggerate the Folly, without any Alleviation of the Crime. Methought the two young Sparks, dash'd in their Hopes, trembled; and tho' I adher'd to all the Judge had said, I could not refuse 'em a little Compassion on their visible Dejection: But when they began to shed Tears, and tear their Hair, I conson'd with them so very heartily,

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that it seem'd to throw me into such an Agony, that I awak'd. Though I was some Time before I could perfectly recover myself from the Concern I was in, I leave any Man of Sense to judge what was the Application, and what my Resolutions, so soon as I had.



VISION



VISION VIII.

AT a Coffee-House t'other Day I was entertain'd with a didactical Dialogue, between two Gentlemen of the Law, that did not at first divert me only, but the whole Assembly. They certainly mistook their Situation, and thought themselves safe at the Bar; for foul Language was the fairest Thing that flew out of their Lips: Till, at last, they threw themselves into such a Ferment, that what wise Men would have thought, at least, Infelicities, they threw upon one another as Vertues. Their mutual Over-reachings were recriminated with an insultorial Pleasure, till they had fully convinc'd their Auditors, that, as between them both there was never a Barrel the better Herring, so, if Justice had taken her full Claim on either of them, they must both, at that Time, inevitably have been out of the Land of the Living. Thought I within myself, Sure I have been mistaken, and there are in the World People that dream waking. How else could two Persons, seemingly Men of Figure, pelt one another in such a Manner, and make their own Weaknesses and Failings a Subject
for

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for the Diversion of Strangers! I confess, with me it did not long last to be Diversion: What they call'd *Wu*, enforc'd my Pity; and the Smile that I could not at first refuse 'em, became so nauseous to my own Fancy, that I rose up, paid my Two-pence, and retir'd home.

So soon as I was got to Bed, the former Images were so strong upon me, that I am now compell'd to assent with *Claudian*, so far at least, that we may sometimes dream at Night on Things that pass in the Day. I was however, methought, got to the old Bar, and under my old Protector. The Three stern Judges were before me, when a Person of apparent Sweetness in Behaviour came up to the Bar, and desir'd she might be heard by her Council. Who are you? says *Minos*; and what is your Complaint? My Name is *Modesty*, says the Fair-one; and my Complaint is, that I am abus'd by those, who in Appearance pretend to be my Friends. Are your Council instructed, and ready? says *Minos*. My Cause, reply'd the Fair, is so innocent and just, that I did not come provided; but I don't doubt but among this great Herd of Gentlemen of the Long Robe, I can easily make Choice of a Couple that will answer my Purpose: (By which I understood, by the by, that this Court, like that of the highest Court of Judicature in my own Country, admitted but of two Council in a Cause, well judging that

that Two is as good as two Thousand.) Make your Choice, says *Minos*; view 'em all over: And when you have pitch'd upon your Persons, we will give them a fair Hearing. Immediately on the Declaration, methought, she was surrounded with a whole Troop of Gentlemen in Hanging Sleeves, that offer'd their Service. At which Time I dismounted, the better to make my Observation. This offer'd to plead her Cause very cheap; another, for Half Fees; and another, in *Forma Pauperis*. The Lady seem'd to like none of them; or, at least, thought proper to go farther a Field, before she fix'd. Upon this Irresolution of her's, steps up to her very Chin Squire *Burdo*; but shutting his Eyes while he spoke, and offering his Service in somewhat of an ecstatic Motion, gave her such an ill Representation of his locutory Capacity, that she would not look upon him, any more than he had done upon her in his blind Application.

This Rejection could not be long unobserv'd by the rest of the Fraternity, and consequently fail'd not to encourage others to an Application for Reception into her Service. But one above all the rest (he was too remarkable for me ever to forget him) told her that he was next to a Judge, and, notwithstanding the Shabbiness of his Person, it was well known that he could talk as well as his Betters; and if he never had had the
good

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good Luck to convince by Argument, he had many and many a time tir'd a Court into Compliance by his Rhetorick. As to Fees, he said (tho' his favourite Vice was Avarice) for her Sex's sake he would be moderate; for tho' never but one was known to have any Respect for him, yet he had such a Respect for all (that one excepted) he would be sure to lay open every Faculty in her Service. With an Air of Disdain the Fair-one seem'd to receive his Harangue: Surpriz'd at which, he pull'd out his Pocket Looking-glass, and finding one of his Candle-end Cocks much out of Curl, flunk a little on one side, to put it in Order.

This Repulse confirm'd a Leash of young Petticoat-Squires, in their Opinion of their own dear selves; and not any one of them made a doubt, but his Youth and Bon Mein would do the Business. By Consent, therefore, they advanc'd in a Line, like, as they said themselves, the Three Goddeses on Mount *Ida*: But, alas! every one of them return'd back, disappointed of the Prize. The first pleaded his near Relation to Innocence itself, in his Name; and said—oh how he said! what he would say for her. But she, little minding his adulatory Effusions, turning her Head on one side, observ'd he had dropp'd a Paper; which going to take up, another of the Law sav'd her the Trouble, and in a Courtly Manner presented

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it to her. On opening whereof, she found it a Bill of Brokeridge for Stock; which sufficiently disinclin'd her to fixing there; well satisfy'd that nothing of a Broker could be a proper Person to be entertain'd in the Cause of either Honour or Modesty. But what confirm'd her the more was the Party who had deliver'd her the Paper took that Opportunity to whisper in her Ear, that he who dropp'd it had, upon a certain Occasion, advis'd a Client of his own clandestinely to attest as a Falsity, what he before had attested to the Publick as an irrefragable Truth; and thereby infecting him with his own Pusillanimity, prevail'd on him to sacrifice his real Honour for an imaginary Danger. But Prejudice to another, is not always advantageous to ourselves; nor was it here: For, tho' by this Stratagem he had supplanted his Rival, the Road to his own ambitious Hopes was not so plain as he had flatter'd himself. Another's Demerit, tho' a Bar to his own Pretensions, can of itself yield very little Title of Merit, even to the very Discoverer. However, he expatiated on the Failings of his Adversary, and made every one of them a Step to his own Accomplishments. I never had to do with Stocks, he cry'd; nor did I ever advise any Man to sacrifice his Honour to the Weakness of his Fear. With these, and a Dozen more *I never did's*, he went on to assert his negative Merit, without offering at any one single Instance

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stance of an Affirmative. This so weary'd the Fair-one, that, without vouchsafing the least Reply, she look'd towards the other; who, conscious of his little Prospect of Success by their Reception, march'd off again with them, with this superior Comfort, however, that he had not been refus'd, as they severally had.

In the next Place came on a little Regiment of Coifs and Hanging Sleeves, intermix'd, all Men of Years, and seeming Experience and Gravity: But if they had ever been of her Ladyship's Acquaintance, it was so long since, that they had utterly forgot her, and consequently pass'd by without so much as offering their Service; which Behaviour, to be sure, was Motive enough to her so to let them pass, without stopping them to ask Questions.

But they were followed by a Person so promising from his Physiognomy and gentile Appearance, that, on the very Sight of him, my Good-will had pitch'd upon him for one of the Two, and my Wishes kept pace in his Favour. So soon as he beheld her, it was apparent he had known her; and the Gentleness of his Address in offering his Service, fully confirm'd it. Madam, said he, lowly bowing, hearing the Judges had allow'd you the Choice of Two Council, learned in the Law, to defend your Cause, spirited with an unfeign'd Zeal, I flew to offer the best of my Powers

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Powers in your Assistance. I am sensible that the Honour of contributing to the Redress of a Lady of so many singular Perfections, is of itself Reward enough for either the most Ambitious, or the most Avaritious: For who that beholds a Person of so many excellent Endowments, can forbear to wish he may have it in his Power to oblige her? to oblige one that has it so many Ways in her Power to return the Obligation — I found his Adulation all along had created some Uneasiness in her: But, on the very Utterance of the latter Part, she turn'd away from him, and would hear no more, tho' he follow'd her some Steps very obsequiously, to have explain'd his Meaning by an Apology. But she walk'd away; and he found it was his Business then to do so too.

At this rate, thought I with myself, if she will have her Cause defended, I fear she must be her own Council; for tho' I could not but agree with her in the main, that the last Offerer had gone a little too far in his Declaration, yet Human Nature so far took his Part, that I could not but think, in the highest Severity of Justice, she ought to have allow'd him the Opportunity of clearing himself: But at the same time that benevolent Reflection brought to my Mind that excellent Line of *Portia's* in *Cato*,

But she that once deliberates, is lost:

Which

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Which immediately oblig'd me to alter my Sentiments of both.

However, curious to see the Event, I walk'd forward after the Fair-one, and had the Pleasure, soon after, to see her accosted by a Pair of Barristers Arm in Arm. They were not altogether unpersonable, notwithstanding the Colour of their Hair, and the Freckles in their Faces. But, on their very Approach, she drew on one side, and, by her Disregard, seem'd to tell 'em, that she had read *Osbourn* too often to imagine them capable of doing her Cause either Service or Honour. A Repulse, without Hearing, confounded me more than ever; for I could not but apprehend such a preposterous Way of challenging, would issue, as it sometimes has done in our Courts on this side the Water. Guilty, indeed, it could not make her; but I apprehended she would hardly leave herself Council enough to make her innocent.

But that Sollicitude was soon over: For, casting my Eyes a little forward, I beheld a Group of Professors making up to her; and in such Numbers too, that I could not but flatter myself that, in such a Multitude, it would be impossible not to make a Choice, and pick out a Couple. There were Ancients, Middle-ag'd, and Young; and the Deuce is in the Dice, thought I with myself, if we don't meet with a right Cast here. This Company appear'd to have more of the Cast of Consideration,

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deration, than any I had yet observ'd: For Seniority seem'd to imply Superiority; none of the Young offering to postpone their Elders. The first two that advanc'd (for I found they had agreed to advance by Couples) were, to look at, a Pair of sage grave Dons, of the wrong side Threescore; but so shamefully youthful in their Imaginations, that I could hardly prevail on myself to believe their Discourse could be tolerable to themselves. Their Looks and their Gestures were answerable; so that she dispatch'd them without admitting them to Audience. The next that came were much about the same Age, tho' of quite a different Cast; for, it seems, Avarice was their favourite Vice, and they had always us'd to treat the Cause, whether weighty or light, according to the Weight, not in the Head, but on the Brief. She discover'd the Mercinariness of their Minds, by the expanding of their Hands, whence concluding them by no means proper Guardians of any thing valuable, she gave a Sign with her Hand for them to march along. The Two next that advanc'd did it in such a majestick Manner, that a Man might, without any Danger of the Act, have sworn that they believ'd every Step they took was towards a Dignity, and Train-bearers, at least, were at the Tail of them: She would have pass'd them, as she had done those before, when one of them breaking his Rank, and coming closer, oblig'd her to
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lend an Ear. Madam, said he, you may see I am an old Stager in Law; I have pleaded at all Bars, and in all Causes; Dukes, Dutcheffs; nay, even Monarchs, have been my Clients, and I never troubled myself whether Right or Wrong, having an excellent Faculty at Bleaching: A late Dutcheffs had never got her Fortune allow'd her, had the Eloquence of my Tongue been employ'd on the contrary Side; nor had — He was going on, when, with a Cast of the highest Disdain, she retreated a few Steps backward, and forc'd him to march on with his Companion at his Heels.

This Cooler to the Ambitious, did not however cool the Ambition of the two succeeding: On the contrary, they flatter'd themselves that their Repulse laid open a Path for their own Advancement. Under which Assurance, they presented themselves before her, each about the Age of Fifty. I confess the Circumstances were so favourable, and the Persons so promising, that my Assent ran on their Side; but I found in a little Time, that Chance, not Choice, had coupl'd them: For, instead of laying out their own Excellencies, they laid open each other's Failings in such opprobrious Terms, that I easily read the Destiny that follow'd, since what must offend the Ears of every modest Person, could never pretend to engage those of the Lady. She turn'd her Face away, and left 'em to follow their

their Leaders. After these, came up a whole Bevy of the younger Sort, some prinking their Bands, others disposing their Whigs, and a few with Pocket Looking-Glasses adjusting their Countenances; but all upon a Levity and Wantonness, that I did not wonder she survey'd them with a decent Disdain, and turn'd her Head away from them with Contempt.

Nevertheless, I could not avoid a solicitous Concern for the Consequences: For, thought I, if all these too are challeng'd, what will become of the poor Creature? She easily took Notice of an Anxiety, that it was impossible for me to conceal, and, advancing towards me; What? says she with a Smile, I believe you are in Pain for me? But don't trouble yourself, continued she, Providence never forsakes any that repose a Trust. And, I am apt to believe, you will soon experience the Truth of it. The Words had scarce parted from her Lips, when I perceived two Persons advancing towards her, that, if I had not left 'em behind me, I could have sworn to have been *Faz* — and young *K* — by. As if she had had an internal Signal, the Lady immediately made her Advances, and told 'em, when she came up to them, that they were the Persons she had receiv'd Directions to put her Cause in the Hands of. Truth, Candour and Integrity are proper Qualifications for the Champions of Modesty; and Courage, Eloquence and Perspicuity, will, doubtless,

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doubtless, enable you to set out who are the real, and who the pretended Friends of Modesty. This is all the Brief I shall trouble you with: Come on, the Judges are sitting, and have promis'd me a patient Hearing. In the Courts on the other Side the Water, perhaps, it might be objected against you, that you are Parties concern'd in the Cause: But, consider, Noise does not pass here for Argument, nor will Words, however many, have any greater Weight than Reason gives 'em. But least I seem guilty of the Failing I complain of, let us along, and Truth and Virtue be our Guardians.

She march'd courageously forward, methought, before her Council, up to the very Bar, and myself in the Rear: When such an unruly Multitude press'd along to hear the Pleadings, that they carry'd me before 'em: But just as I was ready to mount the Seat, and take my old Place (for I was as eager to hear as the best of 'em) a huge brawny Son of an Exciseman, more like than a Lawyer, trampled on my Toe, methought, and gave me such a Twinge, that I cry'd out and wak'd myself. But tho' that Part was only Dream, the Cramp had seiz'd me with such a Violence, that it was at least half an Hour before I could get rid on't. And thus, as the Poet says, all Dreams may have somewhat significant attend 'em.

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VISION IX.

THE News Papers of late have entertain'd the World with a Relation so incongruous, that Foreigners, tho' ready enough to allow our Nation Non-parcils in frantick Actions, will hardly believe it; and, indeed, it was sometime before I could prevail on myself so to do. That a Lawyer, if an Attorney may be so call'd, a Man of a plentiful Fortune, should be arraign'd, try'd and condemn'd for a Felon; nay, for a Street-Robber, is most prodigious. Subornation and Frauds, not of a capital Nature, had been long the Province of many of them; and, therefore, it is no wonder, that he had a *Scotch* Brother likely to accompany him in his last Minutes for those less glaring (I mean as to them) and vile Enormities. But on Enquiry, I found the whole Riddle resolv'd into this: That eminent Lawyer had long been a Trader for the Students in the hopeful Academy of *Newgate*; and that plentiful Estate he is said to be Master of, was procur'd by him by perfect Law Legerdemain. A Bankrupt, says my Authority, desirous to cheat his Creditors, made his Estate over to him,

him, and he, like a true Workman, made it so fast, and defended his Title against the Affliges so well, that the Creditor-Cheater cheated himself, and never could get a Farthing of it back again. Thus the Detail of the Inquisition demonstrates, that our Surprise is meer Superfluity, and every Grain of Compassion will be prodigally lavish'd on a thorough-pac'd Villain, and an Attorney. Had he been born Heir to the Estate, tho' a Shoemaker's Son, somewhat might perhaps have been said in his Favour, and Lunacy, at least, allow'd him; but in this Case, the Cloth is all of a Thread; and the most we can offer is, who knows whether he may prove the only Son of a Shoemaker, a Lawyer, that deserves a Halter?

Full of these, not very diverting, or agreeable Thoughts, I return'd home from my Enquiry, and found myself so dispos'd to Repose, that I did not stay long out of my Bed. Yet thither the same Chain of Thoughts pursu'd me, and perplex'd me so much, that I could not fall to sleep, till meer Vexation and Inquietude of Spirit forc'd it upon me. I was got into the same Place, and now close by my old Friend, when, methought, a haggid, ill-look'd Fellow held a Paper out to me, desiring me to present it to the Judge. I ask'd him, what it was? He reply'd, a Petition. Upon hearing of which, without more ado, I gave it to the Clerk, who open'd

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it and read it; and then smiling, return'd it to me to do the same. The Contents were so very comical, that I retain'd every Syllable so amply, that I wrote 'em down next Morning. It was as follows:

To the Right Honourable and Reverend
the Judges of this infernal Part of the
World.

The most humble Petition of John Ketch,
Esq;

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner having long exercis'd the Function of chief Hangman of the populous County of Middlesex, in the renowned and celebrated Kingdom of England, with unblemish'd Integrity, and with great Applause, had the great, good Fortune, very lately, to do the same good Office upon a couple of Lawyers.

That tho' it is a common Saying, that a Dog tasting human Blood never will be satisfy'd till he has his Belly full of it, your Petitioner could not have believed it, had not Experience taught him the Truth: For, upon hanging those two, I perceive I have got such an itch at hanging, that I never shall have Rest, till I have compleated the Work on 'em all.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly implores, that in Consideration of the Premises, your Honours will give immediate Orders

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that

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that he may begin to shew his Dexterity
on those that are already here; nothing
doubting but his vast Agility in his Work,
will so win open your Honours, that
you will order him to do the same good
Turn for others, as fast as they arrive.

And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, &c.

JOHN KETCH, Esq;

So soon as I had perus'd the Petition twice
over, I return'd it to the Clerk, wondering
what he would do with it; when I found he
gave it up directly into the Hands of *Minors*,
telling me, as soon as he had done it, that
it was not the Custom of that Court to re-
fuse a Reading to any Petitions; and ac-
cordingly I saw it immediately return'd back
to him to read aloud, which he did in the
Words before.

It will hardly enter into the Thought of
Man, what a vast Appearance there was upon
the reading the very Title: They flock'd
round the Court so fast, and in such Crouds,
that Silence was forced to be call'd three
and three Times over before the Clerk could
proceed; but when he had done, the Hub-
bub encreas'd, and every Lawyer there,
against Practice and Principle, was ready to
plead in *forma pauperis*. One call'd out to
have

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have the Villain made an Example of; and before he could utter any farther, another call'd out louder than he, That such an Indignity offer'd so great a Body of Gentlemen, reflected upon the Honour of the Court; a third, too zealous to regard what either of the other had said, broke in upon them, and told the Judges, it was his Opinion, that the notorious Rascal ought to suffer in his own Way; and, rather than any Delay should be offer'd, himself was there ready to be the Hangman. This Zeal of theirs continu'd so violent for the Space of an Hour, that there was nothing but Rage, Noise and Tumult: For no-body could get Opportunity to say what every-body wish'd to be said. At last, one that was taller and lustier than any of the rest, with a stentorical Voice, cry'd aloud, My Lords, I am of Council for the Defendant; upon which they all signify'd their Willingness, that he should proceed by a profound Attention; and then he went on.

COUNCIL'S SPEECH.

I Appear before this Honourable Bench in Behalf of a Society of Gentry formidable for their Numbers; for they exceed the Sands on the Sea Shore; and who, were they capable of taking Wing, would be able to darken the Sun at Noon Day, more easily than any Flight of Locusts ever

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did in Egypt. This great, this illustrious Body, may it please your Honours, find themselves under the heavy Grievance of the defamatory Aspersions, and virulent Malignity of a Villain stolen hither (for, had the Ferryman known who he was, he never would have admitted him into his Boat) for more sinister Designs, perhaps, than this Reverend Bench, tho' fam'd for Perspicuity, are yet aware of. He proposes, like a Dog as he is, to have the Execution of Men of Literature and Merit, and nothing less will serve his Avarice or Ambition, but to vent his Malice on the whole Race. But, my Lords, I humbly submit it to your Consideration, how dangerous a Request it is: For who knows whether he may stop there? He does not alledge one good Reason to countenance his Barbarity, unless his Thirst of Blood be one: For what an illogical Plea is it, that because he has bang'd three or four Lawyers, he shall be gratify'd with the hanging of all? I would by no means forestall the known Justice of this Honourable Bench; but I hope I shall merit Pardon, if I make a counter Proposal to that of this scandalous Proposer: That the Execution, which he is so free to offer, to so great Numbers, may be executed upon himself; and, as a Brother of ours, now in Court, has offer'd himself to the Service, I hope this Honourable Bench, fam'd for Humanity, and the Encouragement of Virtue, will not discourage a young Beginner; but give him an Opportunity

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Opportunity of demonstrating his Dexterity upon that dextrous Artist, in his own Way.

This Harangue was receiv'd with universal Applause; and the poor Petitioner, in all Appearance, had a very unpromising Prospect: Till having Leave of the Court to speak for himself, and defend his Petition, without being in the least daunted (as how could he be daunted, who had so often fac'd the Gallows?) deliver'd himself in the following Manner.

I Pretend not, most Excellent and Honourable, to be a Man of Letters, or to abound in Words; therefore my Speech is not like to be very long, tho' very plain. Hearing, from universal Consent in the Place where my Dominion is pretty well established, that all Lawyers deserv'd a Halter, I could not but ground a Petition upon it to this Honourable Bench, knowing that many of that Tribe had escap'd my Hands; and believing they must have come hither, if any where, I thought I could not do less, in a long Vacation, than wait upon your Lordships to offer my Service. It is very true, the last Sample whetted my Ambition, as it confirm'd the common Notion; but I am certain it will never be a Blemish upon any Man, (at least not in the Eye of this Honourable Bench) that he travails to promote Trade: I could vindicate the Action by many Precedents— But, not to take up the
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precious

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precious Time of your Lordships, one shall do as well as a thousand. What would become of all my Brother Adventurers far North, if they were to be confin'd to their own Country, and not allow'd to seek their Fortunes with Packs on their Backs, in Lands more hospitable? Besides, my Lords, what I offer by Way of Petition, was, in fact, an Act of Charity——[Here some of the Antients, quite out of Patience, began to interrupt] My Lords, says Ketch, I gave them no Interruption, and, from your well-known Candour, I dare promise myself the like Justice. I say, my Petition was an Act of Charity; for well known it is, that many that have fallen under my Fingers, have made excellent Speeches, sang their Psalm melodiously; and, as the good Women say, have made good Ends. It is too true, my Lords, few of the old Sinners have done so; they have dy'd very much harden'd: But as I see before me whole Shoals of hopeful young ones, I would humbly move your Lordships, in pure Charity to them, that you will let me exercise my Function on those that are old, for the Instruction of those that are young.

Minos, hereupon, rising from his Seat, made the following Speech.

MINOS'S SPEECH.

CHARITY is always a commendable Work, and to be encourag'd; but it is my Opinion the Petitioner here is mistaken in his Aim: For tho'

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on the other Side the Water Men may, after Conviction, be brought to a Sense of the desperate Estate which their Follies and Enormities have brought upon 'em, and sometimes sincerely repent; yet here it is otherwise. This is no Place for Repentance: They who trust to it, will find themselves wretchedly mistaken. According to their Doeds, good or bad, will be their Retribution. It is my Opinion, therefore, however good the Intention, the Petition be dismiss'd.

Some of the Lawyers seem'd to me to be so sorry to hear this Piece of News from the Judge's Mouth, that I almost thought 'em inclin'd to petition, that Jack Ketch's Charity might take place, content to undergo the Discipline with a Provifo for the Benefit. But there was a notable Attorney, who made the same Observation with me, came directly up to them, and prevented what they seem'd to be studying, by assuring them, at the worst, he had a Quirk in Law would save 'em: For, continued he, I left behind me a Countryman of my own, who, for a small Piece of Money for every Soul, will take care to have ye all committed to Purgatory; and, o' my Shoul, ye all know, that another small Piece will easily get you all thence. Drowning Persons, we are sensible, are apt to catch at Straws; and, therefore, what great Wonder was it if a Number of Proselytes were made, of such as in their Lives

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had never much troubled themselves with any Thought of a Religious Kind?

However, the Petitioner, methought, seem'd not at all satisfy'd with the Dismission of his Petition: He whisper'd the Cryer of the Court, over and over; insomuch that one of the Judges, at long run, took Notice of it, and demanded of their Officer what was the Purport of them. The Cryer, without the least Hesitation, declar'd, that he had not express'd much Uneasiness at the dismissing his Petition, provided I would move your Honours to give him your Certificate. Our Certificate! Of what? says *Rhadamanthus*, looking upon *Ketch*. That I have behav'd well, says *Ketch*: Otherwise that brawny Fellow, that offer'd to be my Executioner, may steal away before me; and not only get himself elected into my Place (for which, I must acknowledge, he is personally every Way fitter) but, by his Quirks and Tricks in Law, he may wheedle my Masters into a Settlement of the Office upon those of his own Profession, for ever; for which, I must confess, in some Respects they are every Way fitter than I.

Second SPEECH of MINOS.

YOUR Fears are needless, since there is no Possibility of that Person's Return, and, therefore, no Danger of your receiving any Prejudice of that Kind, from that Quarter. You had

bad better, therefore, go back, and discharge your Duty cordially on those you left behind. So zealous a Workman can never want Encouragement ; and I cannot perceive that you have any great Reason to apprehend, but every Term may bring new Grist to your Mill. You have a Saying among yourselves, that A good Beginning makes a good Ending ; and you say in your Petition, that the universal Wishes run in your Favour. We can do no more in this Case, than join our own to the universal Wishes ; for the Good of the Community is, at all Times, to be preferr'd to any Particular : And if you should happen to commit a Mistake or two, in Practice, tell them, according to their much-valu'd Maxim, the Law here will relieve 'em.

Ketch was making his Bow, full of their vast Civilities, and going to withdraw ; when two Persons, of more Stature than Humanity, (for they were Giants in one, and Pigmies in the other) boldly fac'd him, saying, they arrested him for Defamation. *Ketch*, methought, made loud and fearful Exclamations, that the Honour of Nations was infring'd, and the like ; when *Minos*, enquiring into the Matter, order'd all three to come up to the Bar. *Ketch* did not fail, with his fullest Rhetorick, to set forth the Indignity offer'd him in the Face of the Court (which indeed was the Reality of the Thing, and the properest Topick he could have mov'd upon) when *Rhadamantbus*, always the sternest of the

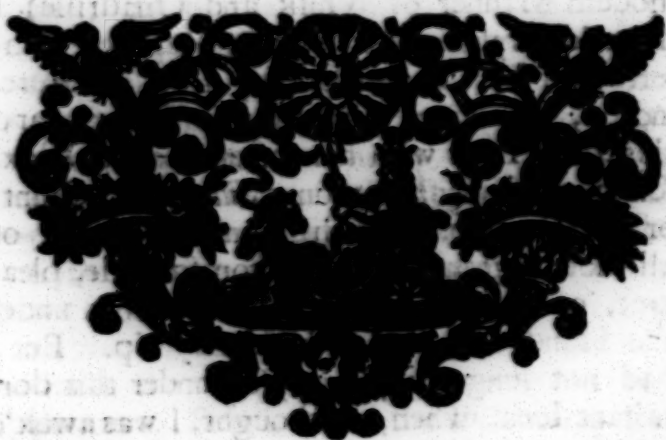
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Three, looking upon the Arresters, thus deliver'd himself. *Ye Pair of Scoundrels! in the truest Acceptation; do you pretend to Gentility, and take upon you the Occupation of Catchpoles? What Warrant? or whose Authority have you for this Action? Well may your Countrymen say, without a Figure, that such as you would disgrace the Gallows. Janizaries,* continued he, *take care and see him safe guarded to the Boat, and stay till the Boat returns to assure you he is safely landed on the other Side. As for those two, put 'em in Irons in the deep Hole, till their Day of Trial; when, tho' we may imagine by this Behaviour, that we shall have no Need of it, we will not forget this Affront they have offered to our Authority in our Presence.* The horn'd Janizaries immediately flew to obey their several Orders, when the rest of the Faculty resenting that rough Usage (as they call'd it) of two of their Brethren, began to make such Resistance, as oblig'd the Judges, by the Sound of a Trumpet, to summon in fresh Troops to their Assistance. The Dispute was vigorous on both Sides, and, for a long Time, doubtful; but several fresh Files appearing, with their Whips and Bells, a Sense of their old Castigation so intimidated those of the Faculty, that they left their Brethren in the safe Hands they were plac'd, and scatter'd and dispers'd themselves, some one Way, and some another, as they best could.

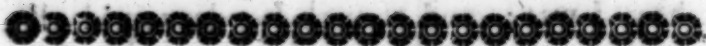
About

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About a Dozen came running to the Place where I was; and though I endeavour'd all I could to get out of their Way, methought they ran full upon me, and laid me on the Ground. The Terror of what might come, so affected me, that I awak'd in the greatest Agony and Surprize imaginable.



VISION



VISION X.

SO late as I went to Bed last Night, after such a full and innocent Diversion all the Evening (not in the old hospitable Way, indeed, which our Ancestry were, at this Time of Year, singularly famous for, but in the modern Manner of Whisk and Quadrille) I flatter'd myself with an easy Repose, uninterrupted by Dreams of any sort. Nature, indeed, soon gave way to my Wishes, and clos'd my Eyes with her softest Sealing-Wax, softer much than any on a *Sub-pena*, Grant, or Patent; nor were the Comments of any, or all those together, equally comfortable, pleasant, or eligible, with those I possess'd under the Hand and Seal of her Ladyship. But I had not long enjoy'd myself under this dormant Idea, when, methought, I was awak'd with a confus'd Clamour and Noise of a many People, earnestly contending, almost to Scolding; drawing nearer to which, in order the better to distinguish, I was snatch'd up, how, or by what, I could not tell, and set down in my old Station, before the three Judges, and my old Friend the Clerk of the Court at my Elbow. He immediately inform'd me, that

that a great Hearing was to be before their Worships that Day, and that all the Lawyers in the Place, without Summons, were there aggregated, impatient to hear the Event; on which would depend the Well-being of the whole Fraternity for the future. He further told me, that the Question to be disputed, was, Whether an honest Lawyer ought to plead, or might, *salvâ Conscientiâ*, plead a bad or dishonest Cause. The two Prize-Fighters (for, methought, they were somewhat consonantly equipt) stood at the Bar; but he that maintain'd the Affirmative Part, had, on his Side, twenty, for one of the other. After some little Pause, being ask'd if they were ready, and an affirmative Answer given, they were order'd to begin. But it was some little Time longer before they could come to a Resolution among themselves, which should first open the Matter; for it was not here as in common Cases, wanting both Plaintiff and Defendant, which render'd the Disputation so much out of the common Road, that the Disputants seem'd wholly at a Loss, and were at last oblig'd to beg the Directions of the Bench.

While the Judges were settling the Point among themselves, methought there advanc'd up to the Place two Persons, very oddly equipt, and very different one from another; but each of 'em of a venerable Aspect; and evident Ingenuity distinguish'd every Feature.

One

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One of the Antagonists asking their Names and their Business, both answer'd together, Curiosity led us hither; and my Name, says one, is *Cicero*; and mine, *Demosthenes*, says the other. To which the Questionist reply'd, He had never heard of either of 'em; and insisting they could have no Business there at that Time, mov'd the Court somewhat loudly, that they might be order'd to leave the Place; for that it was wholly unreasonable that they should be disturb'd and interrupted by Foreigners, and Men that were merely, by their own Confession, led thither by an idle Curiosity. But the Judges seem'd highly displeas'd at the Motion, and told the Contenders, that two such Orators ought to have Respect paid 'em every where, and more especially from them, as they could not but perceive they spoke their own Tongue, and not either *Greek* or *Latin*, the Dialects they were bred under. Upon which the other Antagonist very pertly desir'd to know, how they came to understand *English*? For, says he, I am sure neither of us understand either of their Languages. Upon which *Demosthenes* made Answer, that he and *Cicero* had long contracted a Familiarity; and walking together one Day in a Walk of Jasmynes and Honey-suckles, they met, in the Middle of it, four venerable and most ingenious *Englishmen*, who charm'd 'em so much in their Conversation, in both their own native Languages, that in
downright

downright Complaisance they resolv'd, for the Benefit of a more free Conversation, to learn theirs. They accomplish'd their Design very easily, they said; and had enjoy'd the Benefit of it ever since, in the same Company. That was the Motive of their coming hither at this Time; tho' their Companions would have dissuaded them, under a positive Assurance that they would not find the Pleasure, in any Measure, countervail the Trouble.

And who, I pray, says the same pert Gentleman, were your reverend Informers? Had they any Names? Names may distinguish them to you, says *Cicero*; but we distinguish them by Qualities: *Bacon, Hales, Holt, and Finch*, were their Names; and every Hour's Discourse confirm'd us anew of their Merit, and serv'd only to enlarge our Ambition of a closer Conversation and Intimacy. But, continued *Cicero*, what more particularly whetted our Curiosity to come hither at this Time, was a Report, that we should hear an uncommon Thesis disputed, of which, if the Vogue of Ages is of any Validity, we could not apprehend ourselves to be incompetent Judges. Ages! said a Lawyer that stood by, I suppose these are two of King *Ina's* Lawyers. Poor Wretches! they do not consider that those Laws are obsolete, and out of Date. And besides, that they were so plain, and so few, that every body was Lawyer enough to understand 'em. We have had ten thousand

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new Laws since that Time: And new Laws always will require new Ways of Pleading. But Reason and Justice, says *Demosthenes* somewhat furlily, ever was, and ever will be, the same; and ten thousand Laws, ten thousand times repeated, can never alter the Rules of Truth and Equity.

Minos hereupon apprehending that a Dispute might ensue, which would disappoint the Design of the Assembly, call'd out aloud again, to know if they were ready, as they had said, and why they did not begin? Upon which one of the Antagonists declar'd, that, since they came here, he had been inform'd they were a Pair of Heathens, and he was resolv'd, for the Honour of Christianity, not to expose his Talents before any such: The Thesis, on his Side, was purely Christian; and he was ready to maintain it, in a Christian Manner. The other had hardly Patience to let him utter so far: However, he then broke in upon him, and asserted himself as much a Christian as the other; but that he was nevertheless ready to maintain, that both by Precept, and Practice, no Cause was to be deem'd bad, till the Court had so adjudg'd it; concluding thereupon with an *ergo*—— Yes, yes, replies the first, I grant you, in a Heathen Country, it may be good Law for a Lawyer to plead against his Conscience, in favour of his Client, and knowing him to be in the wrong, endeavour to dispossess him that he knows to be in
the

LAW VISIONS! 137

the right: But I dare appeal to the Suffrages of the sensible Part of Mankind; if a Highway-Man might not justify all his Actions on the same Bottom: For what, I pray, does he more, than knowingly dispossess a Man, of what he knows he has a Right in? I therefore, from the Premises, do assert, and will maintain, that upon the true Principles of Christianity, no Lawyer ought to undertake, or plead a Cause, of which he is not absolutely convinc'd of the Right and Justice. Brother, Brother, says the other, what have we to do with Christianity? or Christianity with us, in this Case? It is the Law, not the Gospel, we live by: And the Law, assigning to every Cause Council on both Sides, it is plain that the Law has ordain'd, that the bad Cause shall be defended, as well as the good supported. If then I happen to be on his Side, who has the worst End of the Staff, and yet by Dint of Argument, or Acuteness, am lucky enough to put him in Possession, who had least Reason to expect it, the Law may be to blame; but sure I may reasonably expect to be applauded and rewarded. Applauded! says the first: What, for an Action that a Cannibal would blush for? They, indeed, destroy Mankind: But why? Because they are hungry, and eat them; Power and Ill-Luck first giving them Possession. But the Law, under your Management, will take away the Possession

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possession from the rightful Owner, and give it away, to the Injury of the Rightful, before Authority has invested him with Power. Not so, replies the Opponent; the Client can have no Possession; till Power gives it him. But have not you, reply'd the first, by your Quiddities, and Sham Logick, endeavour'd to commit the most notorious Act of Villany that human Nature is capable of, intending to transfer the Right of one in Possession, or that ought to be in Possession, to another that has no Right at all? No Matter whether you succeed, or no; the Intention is so scandalous, that a *Jew* or a *Turk* would look at it; and therefore to be abhor'd by any one that carries the Name of *Christian*. I have told you, says the other, and I tell it you over again, that Christianity has nothing to do with our Practice, nor that with Christianity: We are to shew our Parts and Dexterity, in order to get Money; both which are necessary Ingredients for attaining the Ends of our Ambition: For sure I am, if either are wanting, the Man that wants either shall never arrive to be Lord-Chancellor. What have we to do with Right or Wrong? The Dispute of that lies between our Clients. But if, by dextrous Haranguing, I can wheedle either Judge or Jury out of their Senses into my Opinion, Mankind, in Justice, will allow me to be the abler Lawyer; which, in all Probability, will carry along with it such a

Train

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Train of auspicious Consequences, as cannot fail to fire the Blood of any Man of Spirit to think on. Phlegm and Hebetude be the Portion of Fools: Heaven gave me Parts; and I should offend Heaven not to make use of 'em to my own Advantage. Envy and Want of Capacity may make Men scrupulous and squeamish; but Genius and Spirit scorn a Tether. Fortitude is one of the Cardinal Virtues, and never more commendable, than when expended where needed. As then a bad Cause needs it most, there spent, it is most commendable; and, if successful, doubly redounds to the Honour of the Lawyer. The Cause would admit of a great deal more to be said in it; but I am unwilling to take up the precious Time of the Court, till I hear what the other Side replies.

My Lords, says the first, to what my Brother has offer'd, I shall make a very concise Replication. At Setting-out, he wisely disclaims all Regard to Christianity; sensible as he is, that Christianity must discard all such Tenets. Nay, even mere Morality disowns him: For tho', by our Calling, Dexterity is lawful in order to get Money; yet to get it, *fas* & *nefas*, never was an allow'd Principle in antient or modern Philosophy. Ambition, therefore, tho' we should allow it a commendable Quality, can be only commendable while preserv'd within the due Bounds of Justice: But to attempt to wheedle, as he says,
either

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either Judge or Jury out of their Senses, in order to make Wrong Right, can never, in Reason, be brought within the most distant Purlieu of Justice; therefore never can be excusable, much less commendable: And the Praise that attends the Success of such an Action, can have no solid Foundation; and, for that Reason, must be empty, and not permanent. The Phlegm and Hebetude he laughs at, if oppos'd to such an unquiet and destructive Spirit, is, in my Opinion, more eligible than that Vivacity, he so splendidly seems to value himself upon. But he would fain stigmatize all moral Notions with the Title of Envy, or Want of Capacity: Let him enjoy himself under the Mistake, while the downright honest Man, with a sincere Pleasure, rejoices that he does want Parts and Capacity to enter upon an Action, which must be condemn'd by Justice, Morality, and every moral Virtue. And yet my Brother would hook into his Assistance, Fortitude, one of the four Cardinal Virtues: But I dare appeal to the Suffrages of the sensible Part of Mankind, if he does not mistake both Name and Thing. True Fortitude consists in doing Things agreeable to right Reason, when attack'd by Calamity: But I should think it out of the Power of Assurance, in the most superlative Degree, to wrest its Meaning so as to patronize an Action (however he would gloss it over with false Varnish) that is entirely

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ly culpable. And no less is that, whatever Masks he would adorn it with, of offering to transfer Right to one that has no Right to it, in order to deprive another, whose Right is incontestible. This is my Opinion; and under this Sentiment it shall be my Endeavour always to act.

I could perceive, methought, by the very Looks of the Judges, which Side they inclin'd to: Nevertheless, as two Orators, the most famous in their Generation, had heard all that was said on both Sides, they seem'd willing to have their Opinions, before Judgment was given. So soon as the Pleasure of the Bench was signify'd to them, *Demosthenes* rose up, and declar'd, As he was mostly employ'd in publick Affairs, his Orations had mainly tended to the Opposition of *Philip* of *Macedon*, at that Time conspiring the Vassalage of *Greece*, and particularly of that * Republick, of which he was a Member: He therefore, he said, could not look upon himself as a competent Judge of the Affair in Question; but his Companion had approv'd himself a Philosopher, as well as an Orator, and had, besides, amus'd the World and himself upon Themes of a Religious Nature; for which Reason, he apprehended him fitter to satisfy the Bench upon the Point before 'em. The Judges seeming to admit of his Excuse, at

* Athens.

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the same Time cast their Eyes upon Cicero, who taking that for a Signal, spoke as follows:

CICERO'S SPEECH.

Religion, be it of what Species it will, must always have a near Concern in Justice. If no Regard was to be had to Conscience, Judges, Council, and Laws themselves were vain. It is well known how I impeach'd a bold Conspirator against his Country, and as bravely attack'd an Adulterer in open Senate: The Success was the same, tho' the Consequences were quite different, from the different Constitution of the Judges; for by one I got eternal Glory, by the other, Banishment. Corruption then grew so fast in the Senate, that Loss of Liberty soon follow'd. As to the Question in Hand, I confess it was customary in the Senate, in criminal Cases, to allow of Council for the Accus'd; and it was as customary for some of the Orators of those Times, to bleach foul Crimes with fouler Rhetorick, and tell their superficial Stories so often over, that they at last believ'd them themselves. In Milo's Case, Hortensius, my Opposer, publicly acknowledg'd the Man's Innocence before the Day of Hearing; yet, on Trial, so bitterly inveigh'd, contradicting all he before had said, that he obtain'd a Sentence against him, maugre all I could offer for him. But he might thank Cato for that, whose near Relation

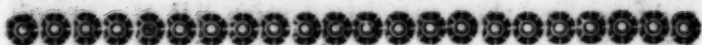
to the Wretch Milo had kill'd in his own Defence, did him more Service, than all the Pleader's Rhetorick. Cases of Meum and Tuum were very infrequent. For our Laws were then so fair, and so well explain'd, that Right of Possession came rarely, very rarely, into Dispute. And whenever they did so, it was in Matters really intricate; for I dare set at Defiance any Man to give an Instance, in Times of Liberty I mean, where an Orator, merely for Lucre, undertook to defend a Cause that he knew was design'd in Injury to another. Yet could it be prov'd, even here, the Case is quite different between them and these: The first acted under the Light of Nature; the latter act, or pretend to act, under a brighter Dispensation. I am very sensible, one of the present Pleaders quits all Title to it; but that can be only taken as Argumentum ad Hominem: For, Conscience apart, if under the Laws of the Land, all are oblig'd to act as under that Dispensation, in my Opinion, instead of justifying his Action, he makes himself a double Criminal. However, taking the Whole under the moral Part only, I see Nations so barbarous never were heard of, that made it their Glory to rob Men of their Rights, to give 'em to others that had no Right. No Law can countenance such an Attempt; and therefore it must be through a Defect of Law, whenever it is attempted.

The

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The Judges declar'd, they highly assented to his Sentiments : but reserv'd the final Determination to another Day : At which Declaration, methought, the whole Place rang with such repeated Acclamations, that, had they been real, a Man must have been in his last Sleep, not to have wak'd.





VISION XI.

The Executioners.

Whether to call what follows, a Vision, a Dream, or an Allusion, I am wholly at a loss to determine ; for I was, in my own Apprehension, as broad awake as ever I was in my Life, when that ugly hagg'd Fellow, that had before disturb'd me a whole Night with his Petition, intruded into my Chamber, and very impudently approach'd my Chair, wherein I was set under a deep Contemplation. I was so surpriz'd at the Audaciousness of the Action, that I over and over question'd with myself, whether I was awake, or no : At last, determining that I was, and that what I saw was no Fiction, I courageously demanded his Business. My Name, Sir, says he, is *John Ketch*, Esq; a very useful Member of the Metropolis we live in ; and I come to you to beg your Advice, upon a most notorious Incroachment upon the Perquisites of my Office. It is well known, that I am call'd by the Title of chief Executioner of the City ; but there

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are

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are a Parcel of verier Rogues than I dare pretend to be, that run away with all the profitable Part, and leave almost only the disreputable Part of my Office to me. I would have excus'd myself, by telling him I was no Councillor; and therefore my Advice would be of little Avail: But he persisted so much in his Importunities, that, to put a Stop to 'em, I was forc'd to acquiesce, and tell him, if it was not over-long, I would have Patience to hear his Bill of Grievances. He made a Bow of Thanks, and, assuring me of Conciseness, went on:

It is very well known, Sir, says he, that my Title of City Executioner ought to entitle me to all the Executions of the City; but, to my apparent Detriment, the Corporation of *Sworn Appraisers* pick and cull the best, and leave to my Share those only of old Clothes, and the Shoes, People die in. Sure I am, if the other Executions were to fall under my Management, as by Right and Title they ought, it would be some Hundreds *per Cent.* the better for every unfortunate honest Trader. In the first Place, I would take care not to make Advantages against Law, by selling, after Execution, before the Time is elaps'd which the Law allots. Secondly, I would employ none of those Rascals, who, tho' sworn to do Justice, let Interest lead Conscience, and appropriate the whole Tenour of their Oath to their own
private

private Advantage. Thirdly, My Conscience being much tenderer than any of theirs, I should never be able to persuade myself, that, tho' I was in legal Possession for a Debt of twenty Pounds, I had Liberty thence given me to swallow up an Inventory of Goods, which, on a moderate Valuation, might have been sold for two Hundred ; and, when the abus'd Owner comes to replevy, plead an absolute Bill of Sale from the Sheriff, and that they were, by Virtue of that, dispers'd all over the Kingdom. These are a few of the Advantages the Nation would reap from my being plac'd in my Station ; but not all : For I am apt to think, on a fair Hearing, it would be allotted me to execute the other Branch of my Office upon those Blood-sucking Tools of Bailiffs, who, for the sake of dividing the Spoils of honest Men, regard all Law, as little as they ever before had done Gospel.

A sworn Appraiser, continued he, in reality, is worse than either Highway-Man or Street-Robber : These only force from you what Money you have in your Pocket, or the little Trifles you have about you ; but those Wretches, as soon as ever they enter your House, waste, filch, and destroy every Thing they can lay Eye or Hand on. If a fine Handkerchief, a commodious Piece of Silk, or any Thing portable presents (unless the Bailiff's Follower has been beforehand)

they are slipt out of the Inventory into their Breeches, or Pockets; and, when tax'd with them, those that were sworn to do Justice, will swear through thick and thin, that they never saw any such Thing. If a Cabinet of Value, of too great Bulk'to be secreted, is therefore unavoidably inventory'd, it is set down at a very under Price, and the Bailiff, or his Tool, wanting such a pretty Bauble for his Whore, it is sent out of the House directly, and never to be retriev'd, tho' twice ten Times more is laid down for it. If you seek for Redress, and complain to the Master of the Office of this gross Abuse, he will give you (perhaps) his Letter to the Clerk, who will be sure to tell you that you come too late, the Goods are legally sold, and past Retrieve; and then the Bevy of Rogues meet together over a Bowl of Punch, make a Division of the Prize-Money, and drink Success to the next deplorable Sacrifice. Thus, right Lawyer-like, they play into one another's Hands; and, for my Part, I cannot see but it would be better, if, instead of being plac'd at the Heels, I were plac'd at the Head of every one of them.

There was so much Humour in the Wretch, and he argu'd so Laconickly, that I began to be in Humour, and, without any great Difficulty, prevail'd upon myself to ask him two or three Questions. And, First, said I, how do you know such Practices are now in Use?

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Use? Good Sir, replies he, how do I know it? by doleful Experience. I not long since was at a House, where one of these ungracious Wretches had carry'd me, under the Assurance of my buying Dog-cheap Penyworths: There were fine Cloth Beds, Chairs of the same, all bran new; Sconces, Pier-Glasses, and every Thing answerable; in short, every Thing in the House was of a piece, and Cabinets, Scrutores, and Buroes were no where wanting, where proper. When I saw all this, and five or six Children weeping and lamenting that their Father was from Home, I could not but, in meer Tenderneſs, ask my Introducer, what was the Sum in Question; when, to my utter Surprize, he answer'd, Under twenty Pounds. How, said I, why there's hardly a Room that I have seen, but the Furniture would yield the Money, and one, three times over. Ah! my Boy, says he, but we shall have 'em all away before To-morrow Morning, and at our own Price too. I profess to you, Sir, I was struck, I was confounded; and immediately ran out of the House to see for a Friend to lay down the Money, for the poor Childrens sole Sake. But before I could return with my Friend, for that Purpose, the Goods were all carry'd off, the House stript, and not a Thing of Sixpence Value left in it. I went, with the eldest of the Children, to the Secondary; he gave us his Letter to the Under-Sheriff; and, at

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his Office, we had that doughty Answer I before spoke of. When the unfortunate Gentleman return'd and heard of the Matter, he employ'd an Attorney to sue the sworn and swearing Gentry: But whether the Attorney was taken in, or what was the Matter, I know not; the Cause was dropt, and all the poor Comfort that he ever had, was to resolve, for the future, to take care who he was Bail for.

But I hope, said I, such Misfortunes are not common. Only every Week's Work, reply'd he. If a Man was to be constant in their Company, you might, at every Bailiff's Office, in and about the City, be entertain'd with great Variety of like Relations. It is Matter of Triumph to every one of 'em, and they boast of their Dexterity at such Feats, as a *ivian* would do at the knocking down of Cocks on *Shrove-Tuesday*. Remorse and Pity is as far from 'em, as from a Butcher cutting the Throat of a Lamb. If they could be accus'd of any sort of Religion, we must set 'em all down for Papiſts; and conclude that they had conceiv'd the same Inveteracy against honest Men, that the other plead against those they call Hereticks, in destroying whom they think they do God good Service. Judge you, Sir, are such Men so fit to be trusted with publick Executions, as one that has behav'd himself in his Office with known Industry and Fidelity, and is still
ready,

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ready, if they doubt it, to give 'em jugular Demonstration.

At this rate, said I, you'll list them in the Class of Lawyers too. Undoubtedly, said he: Why not, as well as I? We are both Execution-Lawyers; only that Part which they have left me, is, as they imagine it, the most commendable and innocent: For, as I never am permitted to execute, but upon Criminals, they never execute without an Encrease of their Crimes. I always am attended in Pomp by the Sheriffs Officers, when I go to do my Office; while those poor Dogs are forc'd to cringe and creep to the Catch-poles, to be admitted, as Tools, to do the dirty Part of the Work for 'em. But if ever I get to be reinstated in my primitive Powers, I'll give 'em to understand, it is beneath my Dignity and Principle, to be concern'd with such Scoundrels: Rogues that, like Jailors, prey upon the Necessities of the unfortunate Part of Mankind; or, like the Barbarians on our Sea-Coasts, make Spoil of those whom Fortune had before despoil'd of all. For my Part, continu'd he, I am resolv'd to draw up my Petition, and assert my Right and Title. The present Sheriffs are a Couple of worthy, honest Gentlemen; and, as some of their Predecessors have set 'em a many laudable Precedents, I am not without Hope they will, in this Case, relieve me. Can I but once inspire 'em with a true Zeal to examine into

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The Abuses committed by those Rascals, who plead their Authority for it; they will soon be convinc'd of the Equity of my Proposal, and reward the Projector. Men that are not mercenary themselves, will never countenance it in their Servants; and if they can once find a Way to make their Servants honest, this cruel Oppression will soon be prevented. At least, if they will again make me sole Executioner on all Occasions, I'll be bound to execute myself, if ever I agree to go Hand in Hand with a Bailiff. No! I stand more upon my Reputation, than that comes to. *John Ketch* Esq; will not fear to convince the World, that never a Bailiff of 'em all, nor any of their Associates or Underlings, are fit to be nam'd in the same Day with him, for Honour, Honesty, or Good-Nature.

You talk'd of a Petition, said I; have you it drawn up, and about you? Ay marry have I, reply'd he; and it is an Original. I dare not trust any of my Brethren in the Matter; so I got a good honest Clerk to a Justice of Peace, to do the Business; tho' I must tell you, I was, at first, somewhat afraid of him: For some of our Justices of Peace are, now-a-days, a Sort of *quasi* Lawyers, as well as others of 'em are *quasi* Colonels. However, the Knave was pretty honest, and follow'd Instructions; which is as much as many of their Masters can do. Have you a mind to read it? See; it is here. I took it, and
read

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read it; and, to the best of my Remembrance, it was as follows:

To the most Worshipful the Sheriffs of
London and Middlesex,

The humble Petition of *John Ketch Esq;*

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner having long serv'd this Noble City and County, as chief Executioner, with great Pains and Fidelity, and without Blemish in either; humbly hopes it may be some Inducement to your further Favour.

That your Petitioner is inclin'd to believe, from the general Title he bears, that, if his Patent could be trac'd in the proper Offices, it would appear that he was appointed, not only chief, but sole Executioner, in this City and County.

That Numbers of Upstarts, call'd Sworn Appraisers, encourag'd by some few Lawyers, and all the Bailiffs and Serjeants in and about the City, have, of late, taken upon 'em to interfere in his Patent and Grant, and nominate themselves a Sort of Society of Executioners; and, under that Shadow, greatly oppress the Unfortunate, and ruin most that have the Misfortune to fall under their Hands.

That your Petitioner, having always made it manifest that he was a Man of Bowels and Com-

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*passion, at the very Instant he was embowelling
the very Criminal;*

*Humbly desires you will be pleas'd to order
the old Records to be carefully search'd,
that, if his Patent originally ran in the
Terms he opines, he may be re-instated
in his proper Station, to the Discourage-
ment of the Harpies now regnant, and
to the Encouragement of Virtue; which
is bound to protect, and not insult, or
prey upon, Misery.*

And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, &c.

JOHN KETCH, Esq;

On my returning it to him, Well, says he,
What say you to it? My Opinion is, said
I, that it will certainly do. The Sheriffs of
this Year are Men of Honour, Probity, and
Understanding: For which Reason, you could
not have pitch'd upon such a lucky Con-
juncture as this is. From Hints, they can raise
Fabricks; and they will thence be led to con-
clude, that, by laying a Foundation for the
Redress of the Evils you complain of, they
are laying a Ground-work for their own
Glory. For what greater can be said in the
Praise of any Man, than that in his Days,
and by his Means, a Remedy was found to
prevent

prevent the Oppression of innocent, but unfortunate Men, by paring the Fangs of Brutes^s always eager to devour 'em. *Ketch* could not contain his Raptures at my Declaration, and made up to me, to return my Suffrage in Kisses and Embraces. Those masculine Effeminacies ever were so much my Aversion, that, struggling to avoid 'em, I was at last convinc'd that I had been all this while in a Dream.



V I S I O N



VISION XII.

Impressions taken in Sleep, as Naturalists observe, are much stronger, and of longer Duration, than any we imbibe waking. Till we consider it coolly, this may seem a Sort of Paradox: For how is it possible, may some say, that the Senses, while wholly inactive; should imbibe stronger Rays, than when every Sense is at full Liberty to exert themselves in their several Functions? To which I would offer, Why may not the Soul, in that Interval of Inactivity, have taken the whole Corpus of Senses under its immediate Protection? And, next, as it is granted by all Men of solid Thinking, that the Soul is an Emanation of the Divinity, why may not that very Soul, in its subordinate Sphere, be then and there displaying its pleasing Superiority over the Vital Faculties; whence, by a collective Union, all Passages in Sleep may be transmitted in stronger Rays, than any awake; at which Time the Senses are severally at Work, on such Variety of Employments, as the Immenfity of the Mind finds for 'em? But leaving the Discussion of this

to Philosophers, I will make my Resource to Fact, and venture to assert, that my last Impressions were so extraordinary, that I could not get 'em out of my Head all the succeeding Day; and was, therefore, oblig'd to take 'em to Bed with me at Night.

However, they did not seem much to molest me; for I was no sooner laid down, than I was got a gossiping to my old Friend the Clerk in Court, whom, methought, I had contracted a vast Familiarity with, from his benevolent Usage. He began, however, gently to reproach me for deserting my Colours, as he call'd it, and running away before the Trials were over. I excus'd myself as well as I could; and had the good Fortune to perform my Part so well, that, with a Smile, he told me, I had not lost much by it: For that *Minos* had not been able to go through with his Work, there being such Multitudes of them; and therefore had put off their Trials to a further Day. This, continu'd he, rais'd such a Mutiny among 'em, that the Judge found himself under an inevitable Necessity of ordering them into several Cells, there to remain till the Day of Hearing: And, added he, if you incline to it, as I have a Leisure Hour or two, I will go along with you, and make a Visit to every Cell. I did not know, whether or no I had best to embrace the Offer, Nature having implanted in me a Sort of an Aversion to all like Company;

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pany ; till he, perceiving a sort of Reluctance, egg'd me on, by saying, they were all too fast to do any Harm ; and to hear their several Sentiments, under their present Sufferings, might be an Amusement. Upon this I loos'd myself to his Proposal, and away we went ; after he had order'd, for fear of Accidents, four of the Guards to attend us.

The Cells, methought, were all rang'd on both Sides a very large Plain, some above Ground, and some below ; much of the Make of our Parish Round-houses, or rather of those Cages, at the Tower, wherein they keep wild Beasts. So soon as we came to the first Cell, In this, says he, are plac'd those that are next to receive their Trial. Ay, says one within, who had overheard him, and do you know when that is to be ? At *Latter Lammas*, as they say in my Country, says another. They may talk of Governments and Judges on our Side, if they please ; but give me, say I, the old one again : For change as often as you will, you will hardly ever change for the better. For my Part, I had convey'd in my Sleeve but one poor double Moydore, to serve as Occasion might call, and I gave the old Fellow a Glimpse of it, and do you think the veteran Rogue minded it ? no more than a Cat does an Oyster-Shell. Send me on t'other Side the Water again ; and if ever they catch me a coming here a fishing for Clients, I'll give 'em Leave to draw up
my

my Mittimus with my own Text Pen. Nay, says another, I cannot but be on your Side: On this side the Water they are meer hugger mugger Judges, to ourn; no Manner of Dociety or Understandleness; they look on a Man as if they'd never seen him before; nor have the Judges, in these Parts, any Clerks, to speak on. Well, Heav'n help us all, said I; but an every one of us could ha thought what a Place it had been, Ise believe not one of us au would ha com here, aen he could a help it.

Tir'd with this Gibble Gabble, my Friend led me to the next Cell; where they were all as mute as so many Fish. Thought I to myself, these are happy People: their Consciences are so clear, they give 'em no Disturbance. However, my Friend advancing a little before, peep'd in, and immediately gave me the Beckon to do the same. I hardly had taken the Hint, and told their Number, which I made to be about a Pair of Dozens; when one of them comes up to the very Bar, and, well says he, a mighty Business y'ave done, have you not? To croud a Parcel of innocent People here, into a Hole hardly fit for a Dog-kennel? If this be the Justice you boast of, I think you may be asham'd on't. But what, I wonder, can you hope to get by putting People to shame for nothing. My Wife, forsooth, having been out, I suppose somewhere a gossiping, forgot to set my Ears on; but
when

when I come to give an Account of it to the Court, I fancy I shall make some People blush, to hear what I have to say for myself. Ay, said another next to him, Disasters are here to be reckon'd Crimes: I suppose I am to have this Slit down my Nose, thrown in my Dish as a Mishap; and a Mishap no doubt it was, but such a Mishap as many an honest Man may be liable to. Silly People may take it for a Mark of the Hangman's: but I have Testimonials sign'd by many of my Brethren, that I got it by Self-Defence, and sure Self-Defence never was a Crime. The Matter was so plain, that had I not dy'd in the Interval, I had made Interest with a Judge's Clerk, to have got his Master's Hand to it. However, I don't fear but I shall do well enough: For tho' my Witnesses happen not yet to be come, it is very well known, I never stuck at an Oath, upon a good Occasion. And what do you mention an Oath for in my Company, cries another next to him; as if I was the only Person truly? It is well known, that what I did, was to serve my Client, and a good Client he was, and well deserv'd it at my Hands. They that pay well, ought not to lose by it. It is true, there were five or six swore hard against me. What then? might not they be as well mistaken as I? A very fine Pass the World will be at, if a Lawyer's Word may not out-weigh the Oath of a Mechanick or

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two. Hearing 'em talk of Oaths, methought another from the very farther Part of the Cell brush'd through, with a * Wha wants me? Bless me, thought I, what am I got to *Edinburgh*? But by spreading out his Hand, I found, he was of another Calling. However, seeing no body ready to answer his Expectation, he clutch'd his Fists together, and turn'd away, seemingly under no little Disappointment.

Observing that they, one and all, ran much upon Oaths, I whisper'd my Friend in the Ear, and ask'd him the Meaning of it. Why, says he, this is appointed for the Quarters of the Profitable Swearers. For *Minos* gave Orders, that they should have peculiar Cells allotted them, that they might be easily come at on the next Day of Hearing. But the Numbers were so great, and the Crimes of many of 'em so complicated, that the Officers were, now and then, forc'd to stow 'em promiscuously. As you will find in the next Cell, where the Erasers, and Forgers, were under a Necessity of joining Company with the Suborners. Sure, said I, there is a vast deal of Difference between those; for, in my Opinion, their Talents lie two different Ways. Not so much as you imagine, replies my Friend; for, tho' Forgery lies most at the Fingers

* It is affirm'd that, among other Cries of that City, a Man goes about with a Close-stool under a Plad, and Cries, *Wha wants me?*

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Fingers ends ; yet, if you will use your Reason, you will be forc'd to allow, that Subornation is no other than mental Forgery, and therefore naturally involv'd in the same Penalties. But if you will have a little Patience, perhaps you may hear them more elaborately discuss the Point, than I can pretend to do.

Upon saying which, we withdrew to the next Cell, and there we saw a Multitude with Pen and Ink before 'em, on separate Tables. Ay, this will do, says one of 'em ; I defy the Owner himself to distinguish my Hand from his own. How do you like this, says another ? Do you think any Jury in the Universe will be able to make a Discovery here ? I'll say that, and a Fig for him, my Master was one of the profoundest Adepts in the black Art that ever liv'd ; and tho' I say't, that should not say't, he was as happy in a Scholar. If you want any thing to be put out, or taken in, let me have your Custom, says a third. As a Specimen of my Skill, see there. Tell me, he that can, which is Text, and which is Comment : Could I come at the Judge's Letters patent, if I did not Un-judge him, I should think I deserv'd to be judg'd myself. There is no Slight of Hand, like the Slight of a Pen. What do you think of it ? says he to me, seeing me look very earnestly. Think, said I ? that you deserve more than the other World could give you. Why, you can transfer Property,
in

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in half the time that a Judge can decide it. Nay, but if you are for that Sport, cries one near him, let me come in for Snacks. And who I pray are you, said I? Why don't you know me, says he? Then I pronounce you, the very'st *Ignoramus* in *Westminster-Hall*. Lawyers may plead their Hearts out, and their Lungs to Puff-Paste: Nothing will ever be made of the Matter till I come. In one County I go by the Name of *Parker*; in another by the Name of *Johnson*; by the Name of — in another: but all mean the same Person, and the same Thing. I am as well known at the Sessions House as the Jailour himself; and tho' I don't much covet to drudge for such paltry, pitiful Rogues, I am forc'd, now and then, to do 'em a Job, because they help me to better Business. In short, I am between Attorney and Client, in the same Station with Mother *Needham*, between Crack, and Cully. I don't, like her, bring 'em together, 'tis true; but, when they are together, little is to be done without talking with me. I found, by his round-about Way, that he did not greatly care to discover himself further: I had therefore a mind to sift him, by a side Wind, and pray, said I, how come you to be plac'd with the Erasers, and Forgers. Hang 'em, a parcel of pitiful Dogs, the Erasers, I mean; they could hardly ever keep Body and Soul together. But, for the Forgers, continu'd he, they
are

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are near Relations; we are Couzen Germans by the Father's side: For what they do by flight of Hand, we do by flight of Memory. The Fellow seem'd to be so taken with my Curiosity, that he would still have ran on, had not my Friend whisper'd in my Ear, that we had too much Work on our Hands, to lose more Time in trifling there.

I obey'd his Hint, and went along with him to the next Cell; in going to which, he told me, we should find nothing but Attornies there, being all Barreters and Champertrey Men. A profligate Race, says he, as any; tho' nothing near so numerous: Yea, like the Sin of Simony, it has of late got Ground strangely, and under some like Notion with that of Bond of Resignation: We expect, next Boat, a Cart Load of those Adventurers. I peep'd in to see what Sort of Cattle they were, and the first I laid Eyes on, were two of my old Acquaintance. Ha! *Will*, said I to the elder of the two, what brought thee here? Pure Ignorance, answer'd he, fetching a Sigh from the lowest Part of his fat Sides. But do you think it wonnot be a confounded Shame, that I should be punish'd for that? They told me here, continu'd he, of Barrettry and Champertrey, and I know not what; Words that I see sure, I ken not the meaning on, tho' I stood Tryal on some such like Account, on your side the Water. But wa's me, I then met with a
favourable

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favourable Judge, who clear'd me, because
 he said my Adversaries had prov'd too much.
 I am afraid that will hardly pass for Law on
 this side the Water. But if it should, I
 own to you, as a Friend, I carry that
 within me, that Ise fear will do my Business.
 I never knew 'till I came here that I had a
 Conscience, I would I had left it behind. For
 Ise find it a very troublesome Companion. And
 it tells me, that tho'ff Ise should get clear, o'
 this, there are many and many other things,
 that will stick close by me. He had but
 just said this, when my other old Acquain-
 tance came to the Bar, and, with a sort of a
 Fleece, what, cries he, are you come among
 us? On a visit, reply'd I, but not to stay
 with you as yet. But what, I wonder, have
 you to do among these sort of People? All,
 says he, that I can tell of the Matter is, that
 I wanted to get Money apace, and *in ordi-*
ne ad took Causes by the great: but I shall
 get off well enough, for I have brought along
 with me a Friend's Letter to one of our
 Judges, and I intend to make use of it here.
 But there is one thing I more apprehend
 than this Affair. And what is that, said
 I? Why, says he, there is a certain Acquain-
 tance of yours, that I have used very scan-
 dalously, and if he should come, or send o-
 ver, what he has to say against me, you might
 as well pretend to wash the Devil white, as
 to make me not guilty, in the very Depth of
the

the Law. Pray, continued he, for old Acquaintance sake, speak to him in my behalf: Tell him, my Conscience is Tormentor enough; he need not give himself the trouble to appear against me; I promised him all the good Offices I could do for him; and so, my Friend giving me the jog, we went to the next.

And what should that be, as my Companion inform'd me, but the Cell of the Insipids. I made him repeat it twice over, that I might be satisfy'd that my Ears had not deceiv'd me: But, on his confirming it, Insipid, said I, what sort of Lawyers are those? I never heard of that Order before. Look in, says he, and better inform yourself: I fancy you will find some of your old Acquaintance there too. My Curiosity hereupon was doubled, and with more than ordinary Eagerness I went to the Grate, and threw my Eyes all over the Place, or at least as far as the great Concourse of Insipids would let me throw 'em. But next to me, there was a Range of I don't know what to call 'em: For they were all with their Backs toward me; and yet in such a side-way manner, that I could observe that every Man of 'em had in his Hand a Pocket Looking-Glass; in which he observ'd his Phiz, perus'd his Mouth, and set his Wig. After some little Time spent in that Adjouſtment, one of them said, liſping to the Man on the right of him, that he had ſuf-tain'd

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tain'd Yesterday a great Calamity; for that, being sent for, by Lady *Isabella*, to drink Tea in the Interval, a Cause that he was concern'd in came on, and for want of his Company, his Client, who was his Friend, underwent an Overthrow. Dear Sir, says the other, how consentaneous are our Misfortunes? For I, that very Day, rode a few Miles to take part of a Venison Pasty, and a poor Widow, my Client, suffer'd extremely by it. I had order'd my head Clerk to put off the Cause till my Return, which was but to the Day following; and he, some Way or other, neglecting his Duty, the Cause was call'd on, and my poor Widow was cast, and lost all she had in the World by it. A sad Calamity! But Mischances will happen to our best Endeavours. You may talk what you will, says the next to 'em, a Boar and a Beau both in one; but I think my Mishap exceeded both yours. I had a Cause set down for Hearing, and an unlucky Dog of an Acquaintance of mine, sending me Word the Court hunted the same Day on *Hounslow-Heath*, I order'd that drunken Dog *Bob Swallow-all* to attend the Business, and away went I along with the Court. But to see the Misfortune of the Matter: When I came back, I found *Bob* would not leave his Glass; my Client (and a good one he was too, and a Man of Credit and Repute) was cast; the Bailiffs had taken Possession of his Person,

and,

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and, ransacking all the Offices, had so loaded him, that he was forc'd to turn himself over to the *Fleet*; whence, tho' I did at long Run disengage him, it was at the Expence of his Credit, and the Ruin of the Man.

I confess these Relations, which I had no Reason to question, fully convinc'd me of the Justice and Propriety of the Title of the Cell; and yet there was one Thing that confirm'd the Matter beyond all the rest. I had fix'd my Eyes, during all the Relations of these insipid Adventurers, on one Corner of the Cell, where sat, on a Stool, an old Figure in his own coal-black Hair, with (as to me it seem'd) his Wife's white Apron about his Shoulders, and an Ivory Comb in his Hand, taking such ghastly Pains with his thin, but truly ghostly Locks, that I could not but be astonish'd at the Meaning of it. He had been at his painful Task all the while of their Discourse; by his Side lay a Serjeant's Coif, and he did not seem to have half done his Work neither. I could not but desire my Companion to take notice of it, and enquire of him, at the same Time, who the Man was? and what his Meaning? You see him, says he, a most despicable Figure; and yet his Parts adequate to his Person: And yet that despicable Person is not without adequate Conceit. He will spend you Hours in this Insipidity; and tho his Wife, good Lady, esteem'd, while alive, what all Mankind despis'd;

spis'd; he was even with her, and despis'd what all Mankind, but himself, esteem'd. But if these, said I, are all the Crimes he is charg'd with, the Commonness of the Practice among those we call the *Beau Monde* will not render his Case very desperate. Make Truce with your Patience, says he; I am afraid you will hear an ugly Story between a Brother-in-Law and him, whom he first made drunk, and then drew into scandalous Covenants. But of that more hereafter. Let us proceed on our Visitations.

What is here, said I! an empty Cell? going to the next. Not quite empty, said my Friend; nor half full. These are a Species we know not yet what to make of. The Catchpoles complain of them as a Parcel of Interlopers; and say, they are every Day breaking in upon their Privileges. On the other Side, the Informers have retain'd a crafty Attorney to file an Information against them, and swear they will pawn, to their very Skins, to maintain their Rights and Properties. They call themselves Messengers, but in fact are a Sort of Kidnappers and Infidators; tho', on Occasion, they make excellent Evidences, none better; their whole Merit being built upon other Men's Ruin. You may have seen some of 'em in Bookfellers, and Pamphlet Shops. I remember the Creatures. In the Reign of King *James*, said I, when the Law was at its last Gasps, they led Literature such
I a weary

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a weary Life, that both the Trade and the Thing were as near expiring, as the Law. These are those very Men, says my Friend: Here they have lain ever since, waiting for a Time that may countenance their old Practices; as the Court has deferr'd bringing 'em to a Trial, waiting for Credentials from your Herald Office, to know under what Species to place 'em. I signify'd to my Friend, that I had a great Curiosity to talk with one of 'em: But I would not advise you to it, reply'd he; for it is ten to one but he insnares you, and brings you into Jeopardy; for, as I told you before, all his Merit depends upon your Destruction. My Curiosity was immediately cool'd, and I slunk away, as if I had had a Viper in View. My Friend approv'd my Tractability, with a Smile; and led me on to the next.

Bless me, said I, as soon as I peep'd in, here does not want for Number; the Place is so full, it will hardly hold another. And yet, said the Clerk, we have, every Boat, a fresh Supply. These too are a Species yet undistinguish'd; they are a perfect Emblem of the *Samaritan* Estate. They take it ill to be reckon'd among the Attornies; and the Attornies, *Jew-like*, disown them. They are perpetually petitioning and exclaiming against one another; and yet never are so well, as when they are playing into one another's Hands. By your Account of them, said

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said I, I fancy these are Scriveners. The same, reply'd my Friend: You might easily distinguish them by a supercilious Haughtiness in their Countenances. Tho' since the Trick of Stockjobbing came into Vogue, they are much come off of their old Quality Airs, and have found it necessary to borrow a little Obsequiousness of the Brokers. What's that you say of Stocks, Friend, cries one, advancing to the very Post? are they like to rise? Then I'll give Money for the Refusal. I will not lend any Sum, says another, under five thousand Pounds, nor under any legal Interest; over and above which I expect— And there he made a full Stop, in Expectation that we should preserve his Modesty by a generous Offer. But neither of us saying any thing, he made Room for a third; and he deliver'd in Whisper, that if we would agree to sink ten in every Hundred, he would let us have what we wanted at common Interest: But then he should insist upon unexceptionable Security, and Bond and Judgment into the Bargain. You talk of the *Samaritan* State, said I to my Friend; I take these all to be under a perfect *Jewish* OEconomy. What you may be able to prove from a Search of their Bodies, I can't pretend to say; but sure I am their Minds declare 'em thoroughly circumcised. The Words were hardly out of my Mouth, when one squeezing through the Croud, calls aloud, Who be dat wants Circumcision?

cumcision? me be here. He had the most visible Tokens of Dispersion of any I ever saw before; wanting nothing but a Tail, to make an agreeable Monkey. However, he continuing to squeak out, Who dat want Circumcision? who dat want Circumcision? I thought it behov'd me to undeceive him, and tell him, that many here might want it, but, by the Barrenness of Reply, I might take upon me to say, none desir'd it. Did you no call a me, then, quo he, with a Flear and a Grin, that made me look down to see if I had not before overlook'd his distinguishing Part; when I found that, contrary to the Course of vulgar Monkeys, he had got some-body to cut his Tail off at his Buttocks, and fasten it at his Neck. The unlucky Jest pleas'd my Friend very much, and as much enrag'd *Isaac*; for which Reason my Friend thought proper to remove forward.

I began now, methought, to be so familiaris'd in my Circuits, that I scrupled not to outfail my Convoy, and peep into the Cells, without Caution or Ceremony. I was got, in this precipitate Manner, to the next Cell, when my Ears were siring'd with such a Volley of Execrations and Oaths, that, instead of mending, I slacken'd my Pace, and, like a prudent Soldier, waited the coming up of my *Guard du Corps*. My Friend saw me under Amaze; and, tho the Gallimawfry of Words equally offended him, he,
smiling,

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Smiling, ask'd me what was the Matter? Matter! said I: Can you hear, and ask the Question? This sure, continu'd I, is Hell broke loose. And have you forgot, said he, what is your common Usage on Earth? Is not every Street, and every Alley there, a Hell broke loose? But that you may see the Difference of Discipline under Laws no Way different, shew yourselves, says he to the Guards. They did so; and immediately all was hush'd as a Quakers Meeting. I could not but enquire into the Meaning, of both the Distemper and the Cure. You must know, says he, this is the Cell for Bailiffs Followers; plac'd here at the very End of this Range, that by that Means they might give the least Disturbance: They are the very Scum of the Scum of Mankind: Highway-men, Street-Robbers, Pick-pockets, and House-breakers always recruit the Corps; and well the Stream declares the putid Fountain. Twice every Four and twenty Hours, as sure as they come, are they oblig'd to undergo the Whip Discipline. These are their Task-masters; and, therefore, on Sight of these, expecting a Dish of Exceedings, they were struck into Silence; Not but, as soon as they are out of Sight, the Rascals will fall into their old Trammels; for such Scoundrels can neither swallow nor breathe, without an Execration, Oath, or Curse. But enough of such Rubbish: I believe your Curiosity will hardly excite you to

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a Conversation with such black Cattle. And indeed he was in the Right; for I was glad to get out of Hearing, for fear of another Volley.

Beginning the other Range, after we had travers'd the Plain over, in the very first Cell I observ'd a Parcel of People pretty tolerably dress'd, but not one of them without a wry Neck. Asking the Reason of it, my Friend told me, these were Court Solicitors, who had, by Habit, so chang'd Nature, that they would never be able to hold their Necks strait, without the Help of a Halter. They were so perpetually whispering nothing into some-body's Ear, that their whole Lives were one continued Scene of very naked Whispering, and here they continue the Fashion. Pray what was their Employ, said I, on our side the Water? for I do not remember ever to have heard of 'em. You only forget yourself, says he: Did you never hear of a Court Society, that pass'd under the Name of *Place Jobbers*? Men that will sell you one Place half a Dozen Times over; and take Money for having done a Piece of Service, which they never once thought of. They will whisper a Lord, and tell you it was upon your Business; and that he had a most favourable Answer: When, if the Truth was known, he only gave his Lordship the Time of the Day, or took Notice of the Weather, or some other Matter to as little Purpose as either

either of the other. What say you? do you now call 'em to mind? I remember 'em well, said I; and I remember, withal, a Reign, in which they were discourag'd even to Eradication: But that was a Reign in which Men of Merit were station'd; and, in Respect to their Stations, form'd a Resolution that none but Men of Merit should come into Play. Men had not Posts then, because they would admit themselves to be made Pissing Posts: Nor were Places thrown away upon any, for the bare Assurance of being compleat Tools, ready to undergo the worst of Drudgeries for the worst of Purposes. I was going on, when my Friend took me short, and told me this was only preaching to the Wind here; and, therefore, we might as well pass on to the next Cell, and see if that would produce a better Crop.

Before we came to which, we could hear nothing but Our Lord, and My Lord, and all utter'd as it were in perfect Buskins. Where are we now! thought I: Sure we have mistook our Way, and are got into Court, rather than among the Lawyers. But I was soon set to Rights; my Friend informing me they were all Judges Servants, their Clerks, and Tipstaves, being plac'd together to attend the coming of their Masters. To do 'em Justice, I must say that there was not one Grain of Concern in all their Countenances; for they depended, to a Man, on the several

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Interests of their Lords. I speak here of the Clerks; for as to the Tips, they depended more on their own Authority, than any Interest whatever, and behav'd as if they intended to take the Three Infernal Judges into Custody, if they disputed their Power. One of 'em, however, a lusty Farrier-like Fellow, seem'd, by Fits and Starts, to be troubled with a little Remorse of Conscience, and made his Sides rebound now and then in a plaintive Manner. Of which taking Notice to my Friend, he laugh'd, and told me, that he dare say his Malady was wholly domestick, for he had not Thought enough to enter into any Notion of what would become of him hereafter. Seeing us reasoning together, one of them broke from his Company, and, in somewhat of a Rage, demanded what we were talking of? Not of you, Sir, said I: We did not mention your Name. It is very well you did not, said he: If you had, I should have complain'd to my Lord, who is daily expected; and Five hundred to one but he had committed you. My Friend burst out into a violent Laughter at the affected Arrogance; which Tip seeming to resent, he order'd one of our Guards to lift up his Rod of Castigation. On Sight of which, Tip drew in his Horns (for Tips may have Horns, as well as honest People) and left us to talk of what we would, without further Interruption. Methought I myself grew weary of this dumb
and

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and uninstruative Piece of Pageantry, and
mov'd myself, without waiting for my *Habeas*
Corpus.

Before we could reach the next Cell, our
Ears faithfully inform'd us what they were
upon: There were Fiddles and Voices tor-
menting one another, and Giggling and Laugh-
ing, to make a bad Comfort much worse.
Nor were our Eyes, so soon as near enough
to make Use of them, less faithful in their
Accounts, than our Ears had been: A Parcel
of merry *Greeks* we found 'em; and, of all
the Days of their Lives, the Evil Day was
the least and last they thought on. And what,
I pray, said I to my Companion, call you
these? If Christmas had not been over, I
should have taken 'em for a Company of
Morrice-Dancers; not only from their giggling
their Bottoms about, but their Antick Vari-
eties of Dress would lead me to it. Speak
softly, said he, for fear you mar their Mer-
riment. These are young Lawyers; all of
the Partridge Breed: You see they run away
from their Nest, with the Shells upon their
Heads. I don't know how they came at
'em; but every *Tom* has got his Mate, I find.
How soon could I put an End to this Jollity
of theirs? What say you? shall I demolish
this Patchwork of Gallantry? The Scene
was so new, and I found myself so dispos'd
to a little Pleasantry (for I always was of
Opinion that indifferent Musick was better
than

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than none) that I interceded for a little Remission; and so on went the Lads and the Lasses, without the least Regard to Fiddles or Futurity. But Human Pleasures are never lasting; and, in the very Possession, we find 'em still uncertain. One of the young *Jezabels* had stoll'n many a wanton Glance in Wrong of her Partner, and bestow'd 'em, in my Opinion, upon one every Way less deserving; which the Smock-fac'd Comedian; to the Destruction of every Inch of human Patience, having more than once taken Notice of, flew upon his happy Rival, and in a Moment all their Merriment was turn'd into Confusion. In an Instant there were long Cue-Powdriers, Head-Gear, &c. flying all over the Place; some shrieking, others squawling, and the Half-Men bullying and swearing; that it was a perfect Representation of *Billingsgate* on a Fish-Day. But to see the Benefit of good Discipline—No sooner had one of our Guards, at the Command of my Friend, advanc'd his Whip, and shook his Bell, but a perfect Calm succeeded the Storm; and every one began to look about for what belong'd to 'em. Here one catch'd up a Toupee, another a long Cue, another her Head-dress, and another her Handkerchief. But what was most remarkable was, the young *Jezabel*, as I call'd her, and thought her, who had been the Occasion of the whole Disturbance, was porcing after
all

all the rest, and tho' she would not satisfy 'em upon often asking, what she wanted, one of the Company set his Foot upon a Set of fine white Teeth, which stooping to take up, tho' not for his own Use, the fair Lover, with a hearty Shove, set him on his Head, and catching up what she wanted, skuttled to the farther End of the Cell, and left all the rest of the Company to giggle by themselves. My present Surprize exceeded much all my past Pleasure; for I could not help reflecting, what a sorry Condition those young Fellows must be in, that sacrifice their Quiet to Superficialities; and torment themselves with Matters beneath the Consideration of rational Creatures.

My Friend the Clerk, did not seem to dissent from my moral Sentiments: But I found him under some Perplexity, what Account to give me of those in the next Cell. They were few in Number; and, indeed, so few, that tho' we heard a Noise, it was some Time after, peeping and poring, before we could make any Discovery of the Authors of the Sounds, or what they were upon. At last, said I, have you got a Child's School in these Parts? Though I cannot see what Use it can be of, I can make nothing else of it. You may guess twice afore you mend it, says he; it is a School, tho' not a Child's School. This is the Cell kept a-part, Time
im-

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immemorial, for the Six Clerks to learn to read in. Tradition says, that one of them attending a Master in *Chancery*, who was hearing Causes, was by him put to read a Writing in Court, as it was his Place: But not being able to discharge his Office, the Master, who was none of the best tempered Men, rated him in such a Manner that it broke his Heart. So soon as he came here, out of a just Sense of the great Value of Learning, he petitioned that this Cell might be set a-part for a School, that neither he, nor any of his Successors might incur the like Indignity below, that had more than once happened above. The Relation seemed so ludicrous, that I could hardly give Credit to it; till he told me, that those Places had long been sold as *Sine Cures*, and as they cost a great deal of Money, the Purchase, it was not to be supposed that the Purchasers were under any Necessity of reading themselves, so long as they were able to procure Deputies that could. He had scarce done speaking, when they all came forward with a *Ba, Be, Bi, Bo, Bu*, and that very articulately. My Friend knew the Custom, and their Humour, so clapt his Hands smartly, by way of Applause; at which they were all pleased, smiled, and made their Bows, and then walk'd off.

The *Solicitors* in *Chancery*, who I was informed took up the next Cell, had their Lessons

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sons too perfect to want teaching. On peeping in, I found them all as busy as Bees; but I did not care to go too near them, for fear I should find the same Stings in their Tails. However, it was comical enough, to hear how one was damning his Clerk, for putting a Word in a Line more than he should; another treated his in the same manner, for crowding the Sheet with a Line more than Authority allotted. This protested that *Spin-out* had lost his Credit with him for ever, for his Famine of Tautology; and another complained, that his Bill was drawn so out of the way, that it was perfectly intelligible. At this Rate, says he, the Law will run away with all our Business: For how can we think any Man of Parts will employ us, when once we come to be understood. Obscurity and Darkness are the Darlings of Mankind: who would ever read *Tacitus*, if his Translator had not rendered him ten times more obscure than the Original? Or can we think the fine Play of *Solon* would ever have sold off an Impression, if the Author had set up for Sense, Wit, or Meaning? In short, Men may pretend what they please, but they are never better pleased, nor part with their Money more readily, than when their Intellects are puzzled, and their Senses reduced to a State of Confusion. You will say, this is making Fools of Mankind, and reducing them to a State of

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of Lunacy. The better ; for are not such our best Clients ? Did ever a Man of Wit come twice into *Law* or *Chancery* ? No Thanks to them if they did ; For had not the Fools or Lunaticks drove them in, I am sure we had never had any of their Company. Brother, says one next to him, you have all the Talk to yourself, though you are not paid for it. Let me take my Turn : Perhaps I may start a Point you are not apprized of. What an if we see'd Council to make a Motion, now that they are moving to enlarge the Rules of the *Fleet*, that for the Time to come we might have no Rule to go by ? I am sure it would encrease Business ; and redound much to the Honour of the Court, and likewise — (here he yawn'd) I have forgot the 'tother, but I'll send by the next Boat to *Berkhemstead* for my Papers, and then you will see a deal more. My Friend here could not hold from laughing ; for he knew the poor Wretch not to be so good a Solicitor as a Planter, since his Wife taught him the last, and Nature never taught him the other.

The next Cell, said my Friend, is a Sort of *Noli me tangere*. They who cheat by Charter may hang Conscience at the Girdle, and repent at Leisure. Sheriffs and Mayors Courts were formerly a sort of Court Leets, instituted for common Relief ; but ill Neighbourhood, and ill Example, has now corrupted the Institution, and they are now become

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as mere Stages of the Law as any; where the same Drawcanfirs, or Mountebanks rather, delude the Ignorant, to come and have their Teeth drawn, for their own Glory and Emolument: But those Stage Quacks are more troublesome to our Court than all the rest: For if any of their Professors are brought to the Bar, flap-dash, their Charter is pleaded upon us. Their Brother Knaves, the Sergeants, attempted to make use of the same Stratagem: But we sent one of them to Surgeons Hall, and those skilful Anatomists, after laying open every Artery and Vein, proved them as notorious Catchpoles as ever hang'd. Nay, under the Notion of Counters and Spunging Houses, which certainly must be against Law: (For Pest-Houses were never allowed in the Heart of a City) they have lifted a new Army of Secondarys Clerks and Jailors, that have wholly vitiated the Peace of the City, and tore up the very Roots of the good Government of it. Let us depart, continues he, from such a Lay-stall: For sure *Hell* itself only can afford any thing worse.

The next, which was the largest of all, was the Cell of the Catchpoles, or Sheriffs Officers, as they call themselves, a Parcel of as ill-look'd Wretches as ever disgrac'd *Tyburn*; and yet there was such a Noise and Knocking at a Back-door, that my Friend told me, if I could have a Sight of those that made it,

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I should be apt to look upon these as a sort of Angels. Keep my Eyes from the Sight of them, said I; these are dismal enough in Conscience. Those without that made the Noise, often called out, in Intervals; Brethren, dear Brethren, let us in, we are your near Relations, your own Flesh and Blood in a civil Sense; pray admit us. No, ye precious Rascals, answered one of those within, ye unhang'd Carrion, we scorn your Company. You are a Set of Rogues, that plead Court Relation, and under that specious Plea, presume to seize Souls on *Sundays*. As if their Example was to be your President, ye Villains. Ye make bold with Gospel, as well as Law. Admit such as you into our Society? Perish he that proposes it, say I. Nay, but Brother, says one next him, why so severe upon the poor Rogues? There is no such great Difference, if the Case is right stated. Both of us alike make bold with the Law; and as for the Gospel, our Lives and Conversations declare, we neither of us care one Farthing for it. You'll say, perhaps, their *Sunday* Executions is a sort of interloping Trade, and makes worse for our Profession; but to be ingenious among our own selves, it is a Trade that we rather envy than condemn; For which of us would not be ready enough to do the same, if the Law did not absolutely stare us in the Face? I therefore declare for
their

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their Admission; it is wise in this Time of impending Danger, to strengthen our Party all we can. The Flegm and cool Reasoning of this rational Rogue, tho' it prevailed little on the first Spokesman, had some Weight with the rest, and began to form a Party for a Comprehension; till an unlucky Cur, with a Countenance of a more pestilential Cast, and ominous Hue than any, push'd forward, and thus bespoke the Brethren; I myself having been in Posts of the highest Rank, Tipstaff and Bar-keeper to a Judge, being laid a side for my Merits, took my Refuge under this Honourable Occupation: I know my having lain at the Feet of *Gamaliel* will vouch my Authority, and bespeak your Attention. My Brother that last spoke, is for strengthening our Party, by the Admission of the Petitioners: But I say such a Strengthening will, in the End, be a Weakening of ourselves. For, pray tell me, Do we not find our Numbers large enough already? So large, that with all our Tricks, Craft and Industry, some of our great Body can hardly keep Body and Soul together? I agree with him, indeed, that for the Matter of Villainy, we are pretty much upon a Square: But Villainy is not the Thing we stick at. Tho' we all swear, play at Cards and Dice of a *Sunday*, and do many other Leudnesses equally bad; yet as we keep the Name, tho' we drop the Thing, it pro-

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procures us a sort of Respect amongst our Neighbours, and we are now look'd upon with a different Eye to what we shall be, if we admit these Marshal-Court Rogues, these Verger Polecats, into our Society. I therefore declare for a positive Rejection. Among such ragged Audience, he that speaks last always has the Ascendant : And we see too often, even among the better sort of Men, pacifick Councils slighted, in Favour of those of Variance. Such was the Case here ; the Spirit of Accommodation vanished in a Trice, and Clamour and Tumult seem'd to have taken their Quarters in every Part. Only I observed the Peace-Maker had slip'd himself to one Side, and was got to the very Door, where the Knocking had been. On a sudden, methought, he lift up his Hand, and drew out an Iron Pin ; immediately upon which, rushed in like a Torrent, all the ragged Regiment that had before been deny'd Entrance. One would have imagined this Stratagem should have secured the Person of the Peace-Maker from all Hazard ; but it happened quite otherwise, for the Party *saliant*, not knowing Friend from Foe, one of 'em had his Hand up ready, to lay the Person that let 'em in, down at his Feet. I was so disgusted, at the Injustice ready to be offered, that I threw myself forward, with so much Eagerness, to prevent it, that I wak'd myself. Ne-

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vertheless, when I had a little recovered, I found myself as much fatigued, and my Spirits as much exhausted, as if all had been Reality, and not a Dream.

After this, I fell immediately into a gentle Slumber, when methought the same Person was endeavouring to allure me to another Ramble ; but, instead of yielding to his Blandishments, my fancy'd Weariness instructed me to make all the Excuses possible : Till at last I was obliged to tell him, in downright Terms, that such Jaunts were so far from being diverting to me, that I would be glad to purchase a Recess, at any moderate Expence. Mov'd at the Seriousness of my Complaint, If you are in earnest, said he, there is one, and but one Way to obtain your Wish. As soon as you awake, take Pen, Ink and Paper, and unload your Breast ; finish the Task you have begun ; and endeavour by that, to accomplish the great Work you have in Hand. Then will your Spirits be at Ease, and I shall visit you no more, to expose the Rapacities of those you have to do with. On this, he was going to leave me, when, methought, I rais'd my Head, and desired him to give me a few further Directions, promising I would faithfully follow them. Set out, says he, the Evils you would remedy, in a plain and intelligible Manner. Propose your Remedies in a strong, but

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but decent Drapery, and leave the rest to
your good Genius and Fortune. Pleas'd with
the Prescription, I wak'd, dress'd myself,
and then set about the agreeable Task in a
Dialogue, which I resolv'd should carry the
Title of

PLAIN TRUTH.



PLAIN




PLAIN TRUTH
BY WAY OF
DIALOGUE,

BETWEEN
TRUMAN, *and* SKINALL, *two* ATTOR-
NEYS, *and* SEASON *a* BENCHER.

DIALOGUE I.

TRUMAN.



R. *Skinall*, your Servant, Sir ;
Well met. Why, I have not
seen you, this Age before.
Sk. I don't know how you
should, when *Westminster-*
Hall has so little of your
Company. I believe it is an Age, indeed,
since any body saw you there. What, have
you

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you no Call thither? Is it eternal Vacation with you?

Tru. So it seems, Mr. *Skinall*. For, I have not been there these many Terms past, except as a Passenger to the *Court of Requests* now and then.

Sk. *Court of Requests*: You pick up a hopeful sort of Clients there, I suppose; and abundance of 'em.

Tru. Truly, Sir, as many as I covet: But if I pick up no Clients, I pick up good Company.

Sk. Now, I think no Company so good, as good Clients. A Man never wants, either Diversion, or Conversation, in such Society. Where there is Money, there will always be Mirth; that is an establish'd Maxim with me.

Tru. Then, I fancy, you are no great Friend to pauper Causes.

Sk. Hang 'em, hang 'em; and yet I have got Money by some of 'em: But the very Name is so frightful——

Tru. I fancy if you would add one Word, it would make it amiable, rather than frightful.

Sk. What Word's that, I wonder?

Tru. Charity

Sk. Charity! Why, ay—— Charity's a fine Thing; but you know what the Proverb says——It always should begin at home: But I wonder that you who are so profound
an

an Admirer of her Lady-ship, and have so little other Business, do not lay out your Talents that way; it will certainly bring your name into Request, and make you known; and a Man must be known, Mr. *Truman*, before he can flourish in our Vocation.

Tru. And some Men that flourish in your Vocation, Mr. *Skinall*, are better known than trusted.

Sk. But why my Vocation, I pray; Is it not your's. I am sure I knew your Master, you serv'd Clerkship to. A good Pains-taking, Industrious Man; and he got such a fine Estate, as made him remarkable, and Company for Lords and Senators. Therefore you need not be asham'd of the Vocation, as to singularize me in it.

True. I call'd it your's, Sir, because I saw you wrap'd up in it, and I distinguish'd it from myself, because I never liked it.

Sk. Pray now what's the meaning of this? I never heard of it before. What Disgust has the Law given you.

Tru. Not the least. I love the Law, as well as you that live by it. I think it not only useful, but necessary in all civil Governments. Nay, I will go farther, and own, that no Civil Government can subsist without it. But —

Sk. Ay, now for that But——Come, out with it, Man; Never let it lie upon your Stomach, for fear it breed Maggots.

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Tru. And you will have Patience to hear me; will you?

Sk. O never fear it—

Tru. But I do, very much—

Sk. Out with this Wonder of Wonders—
This Anecdote— See, here comes our Friend *Season*; a Benchler, tho' no Lawyer: he shall be Umpire in the Matter.

Tru. Agreed.

Sea. But you must stay, Gentlemen, till I agree: for, in my Opinion, two such old Acquaintance can never want an Umpire.

Tru. The Task will be the easier, and your embracing it, more friendly.

Sea. Use no more Ceremony, then; for, I dare undertake to arbitrate any Difference between you two.

Tru. I was giving the Law its just and full Eulogiums, just as you came up—

Sk. Ay, but the But—That's the Point.

Tru. But as useful and necessary as the Law is in all Civil Governments, it may grow to be an Evil. That is my But—

Sk. How's that, I pray? Repeat it again—Useful and necessary, and yet an Evil! a pretty sort of Paradox—

Tru. The Paradox will neither endanger your Teeth, or your Senses—It is useful for the Punishment of Villians—It is necessary for the Preservation of Order and Obedience, as well as for determining Disputes, and Differences.

Sk.

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Sk. I hope you don't intend to make an Evil of any part of this?

Tru. What think you, when it is rack'd to oppress those it was made to defend?

Sk. That's the Fault of the Judge.

Tru. What think you, when it is so intricate, that one half of the Judges differ from the other in their Opinions?

Sk. Private Sentements, who can help?

Tru. Or when it is grown so bulky, and Voluminous, that one third Part of the Lawyers never read it; another Third, do not understand it; and the other Third Part, that do read, and understand a little, make very little other use of it, then to puzzle the Cause, and confound Bench and Jury two, where there is one.

Sk. Did you ever hear the like, Mr. *Season*? Is not this perfect Libel?

Sea. As Libels go now-a-days, I know not what to say to it; but I am afraid there is too much Truth in it.

Tru. What a hopeful Condition is that poor Client in, who, by common Vogue, or, more likely, the false Byas of his Attorney, has pitch'd upon one of the *Non-legit* Lawyers for his Council. He may talk by the Hour, till his Hearers are all weary: his crafty Opponent whips him through the Lungs, with Acts of Parliament, and Statutes, he never heard or read of; and let the poor Client's Cause

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be never so good, his Lawyers Lungs would never have Power to save him.

Sk. And how, I pray, in your great Wisdom, would you prevent it?

Tru. I would have the whole Body of the Law reduc'd into a moderate Compass; and made intelligible to the meanest Capacity; by which Means, the Council, without Perplexity, would come at the Meaning; and his Client would be sensible that he had Justice done him, and both Judge and Jury, have the Sanction of other Men's Sentiments, as well as their own Consciences, that Injury was offer'd to no Man.

Sk. I wonder how such a Nostrum ever enter'd into your Brain. It is the first sure it ever did enter into.

Tru. What think you of the great *Bacon*? Or of the good Lord Chief Justice *Hales*? Or the great *Holt*? These all fore-saw the impending Evil, and lamented the Calamity they could not remedy.

Sk. How so, I pray? They were all Men of Power.

Tru. But not of Power enough for such a Task. The whole Fraternity was against them. Such a Reduction of the Law, they knew would reduce the Number of Practitioners, and from such only it is, they hope for a good Harvest; for it is not here, as in Mechanical Mysteries, the fewer the Operators, the more beneficial is the Operation.

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on. Here one makes Work for another ; Experience demonstrating, that where-ever a Lawyer is wanting, Peace is undisturb'd. Even the Catchpole is look'd upon as a Member, and encourag'd, because he brings Grist to the Mill.

St. Why this is mere Scandal, Mr. *Seafon* ; rebuke him.

Tru. Let us wave that Matter at present, and, before we have done, I take upon me to say, I will justify my Assertion. In the mean Time, let me go on to prove my first Position, that none of these three glorious Stars of the Law, had Power to prevent what they were sensible, unprevented, would be a Nuisance in the Nation. *Bacon* had laid a Scheme for it : And, sensible it could not be accomplished by any thing less than Regal Authority, he had begun a Proposal to his Royal Master, for that noble Purpose. How it came to be dropp'd, we may easily imagine ; for the Sacrifice of his Person, for his Parts, as most apprehended, bringing on his sudden Fall, the Project fell with him. I have been very well assured, and my Eyes have been in some Measure an Evidence, that the good Chief Justice *Hales* had prepared somewhat of the like Nature for the View of King *Charles II.* but whether a Court, absorb'd in Pleasures and Luxury, could not spare Time for such a glorious

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Work ; or whether his Death prevented the Prosecution of that commendable Design, I cannot take upon me to say. As to my Lord Chief Justice *Holt*, I believe I am not the only Person living, that have heard him wish, and that in open Court, that such a Reduction could be enter'd upon, and accomplished, for the Ease and Safety of the People.

Sk. You tire my Patience, Mr. *Truman*? How would it be for the Ease and Safety of the People?

Tru. I have in Part told you before ; but, if you please, I will now proceed a little farther : And, first, let me ask you, If the Laws were reduced into a narrower Compass, would they not be more intelligible ? Would not that Perspicuity of the Law, render such a vast Number of Practitioners needless ? Would not a lessening the Number of People to be supported by the Perquisites, as they call 'em, of their Office and Calling, much administer to the Quiet, both of Country Gentlemen and Tradesmen ? Would not —

Sk. Hold, I beseech you : Here are Questions enough of all Conscience.

Tru. More, I fear, than you will easily answer : And yet I will venture to ask another, Would not the Accomplishment of such a Task, distinguish the Reign it was compleated in, equal to an Union of Kingdoms

doms without Hearts? or rather more, since this would inevitably tend to the Union of the Hearts of all three Nations?

Sea. Why, has not his Majesty made a Beginning, in granting out Commissions for settling the Fees of all Courts?

Tru. He has, Mr. *Seafon*; and none rejoices at it more than I. May he proceed in the Kingly Enquiry; and may he prove another *Justinian*, in reducing the Code of the Law. And then—

Sk. What then? I cannot see any great Good that can be the Issue: There will remain the same Number of Mouths to feed; and what will you do next?

Tru. When the Law is once within Compass, (or perhaps while that is a doing) would it not be a Work worthy of a Parliament to regulate the Practice?

Sk. Yes, and how often have they attempted it, and left it at last like the Tinkers Kettle?

Tru. I confess there is some Reason in what you say; but perhaps the Task would not be altogether so difficult, if rightly entered upon, and courageously persisted in.

Sk. Like patching up a Monarchy, to throw it into an Anarchy: or cobbling the Hierarchy into an Aceldema of Irrelegion. These we have seen; but I believe no wise Man wishes to see any more of it.

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Tr. Your Similies are out of all Proportion. The Thing is so easy and natural, that I wonder no-body has ever hit upon it.

Sea. It is new, I confess. Pray, Mr. *Truman*, make us Masters of your *Nostrum*.

Tru. Suppose a Committee of the Lords or Commons were appointed with the usual Powers, to send for Persons, Papers, and Records. Suppose they should next order one flagrant Cause, out of every Court, to be laid before them, (and, I fear, there is no Court but could furnish them with many.) Suppose the Attorneys, or Solicitors, of each Side, attending with their Bills, and the Committee running over every *Item*, and asking proper Questions.

Sk. Well; and they would give 'em proper Answers: And what then?

Tru. I will not take upon me to say, that no Cause would bear such a Scrutiny; but I will venture to say, that, in many Causes, such a Scene of Roguery would be laid open, that would unravel the Mystery, and give 'em Room enough to prepare a good Bill, that might provide against all like Dexterities for the future.

Sk. You talk strangely, *Truman*. How should a Committee of Parliament know any thing of the Matter? Are they Lawyers? Or would you choose a Committee of Lawyers?

Tr.

Tr. By no means : I don't like silly Presidents so well, to make Jurymen of Parties concerned : But is it impossible to find an honest Lawyer, to give his Attendance ? and, upon Oath, make a Discovery of what is right, and what is wrong ? Or grant that to be the Case, if you please ; I am of Opinion, many, nay most of the Gentlemen of that Honourable House, are Men of Capacities not to be easily impos'd upon. And I have known, in some Cases, a Question has been ask'd, that has been esteemed somewhat out of the Way, which has unravell'd a knotty Point more than a proper one could have done.

Sk. You may feed yourself up with these idle Chimera's : But tell me, do you ever expect that any Committee will give themselves so much unprofitable Trouble.

Tr. Let me answer your Question with another. Do you think, amongst five hundred and thirteen Gentlemen of Estates, and fine Education, there may not be found, a few of that Publick Spirit and Honour, as to slight even a great deal of Trouble, for the Good of the Publick ? The profitable is so much beneath the Consideration of any true *English* Spirit, that you seem to have forgot yourself, in forcing such an Objection. Besides, what Trouble would there be in that, more than in any other Committee ? Persons, Papers, and Records, make part of every Order for Enqui-

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ry. And having before 'em the Attornies, with their Bills, the Examination of the first Cause, would sufficiently qualify them for all the rest. Perhaps render all the rest easy and diverting.

Sk. But why so hard, I pray, upon your Brethren the poor Attornies.

Fru. I am satisfy'd, you wilfully mistake me in the Fact, as well as in the Relative Part. But can you think they would not, on such an Examination, be able to make an Estimate of the Equitableness of all Proceedings, from the very Bailiff to the Judge ; that is, from the Beginning to the Ending of the Cause. They would easily discover how the Bailiff plays into the Hands of the Attorney, and sometimes find, perhaps, the same Attorney playing into the Hands of the Council: Far be it from me, to think they need press into the Judges Chambers, but if they made a little Stop at the Offices of their Clerks, perhaps it might not be time thrown away.

Sk. I begin to think all my Time thrown away in this Bibble, Babble. What think you, Mr. Season?

Sea. I profess, on the contrary, I am so pleased with the Notion, that I could be content to hear more on't.

Sk. You may waste your Time, if you please ; I have other Fish to fry ; tho' perhaps, I may rejoin you, before his Fit is over ; and I fancy he'll talk himself so dry, that

that a Bottle will be welcome to him.
Adieu, Gentlemen.

Tru. Why would you let him go? I know, you have an Influence upon him; and I had but just begun to roast him.

Sea. By his haste, I am apt to think, he fancy'd as much. But pray, Mr. *Truman*, favour me so far, to proceed, and if in your Road you should chance to roast me, I give you my Word, you shall raise no ill Blood in me.

Tru. And I give you my Word, Sir, that I look upon that Promise, to proceed from your good Nature, as well as Innocence. Persons, out of the Question, never need apprehend any Danger. As for *Skinall*, he looks upon me still, as a Bird of his own Feather; and by some Questions, he at first ask'd me, I imagine, he knows nothing of my having declin'd Practice. But you know very well, on the Death of my elder Brother, and that little Estate coming to me, I threw all up I was Bred up to, though not wholly upon that Consideration; for, I assure you, had I been necessitated to practice, I should have made but a poor Proficient. Bread would have been the most splendid Part of my Fortune.

Sea. And yet I have heard your Master say, he never had a better Clerk, both as to Industry and Skill.

Tru. I have Reason to think myself his Favourite. He made me large Offers, and

voluntarily

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was not well pleas'd that I refus'd it. But I had observ'd, so many out of the way Things, even in his Practice, who was a very honest Man in his way, that I often thought of a Saying of honest Judge *Hales*, that it was next to an Impossibility for an Attorney to be an honest Man. While I acted under him, all I did was Duty. Had I been so act for myself, many Things I did for him, would never have been done by me.

Saa. But pray proceed, and imagine me *Skinall*.

Tru. Your Disinterestedness, will hardly qualify you for an Objector. Where there is not a little Spleen to keep up the Spirits, the Argument will be flat. Fires will never be long kept alive, without proper Fuel.

Saa. Prepare yourself then, for all the Keanness of an interested Party. I am resolv'd to fetch Fire out of your Steel, if Strokes will do it: And, to begin where you left off, Suppose the Committee to have gone through an Examination of one Cause, in which they had found out many Mal-practices, deserving severe Punishments: What then?

Tru. I never was a Lover of *past facto* Acts, and therefore corporal Punishments, however merited, should not be there inflicted. The publick Votes of the House, upon the Report, would be Infamy enough to them; and they, who would not be inform'd by such Votes, might, at their Peril, employ

employ 'em for the future. But, I have quite another Opinion of the Use the Committee, or rather the Parliament, would make of such Informations, as such an Enquiry would let 'em into. The Practices, which should call for such Censures, would be provided for by their utmost Indignation in futurity.

See. If I remember right, a late Act of Parliament lays severe Penalties upon the Misbehaviours of my Brethren the Lawyers. (You see I am resolv'd to carry on the Farce, for Arguments sake) Pray, did you ever hear of any one who was made a President.

Tru. No ensnaring Questions, good Mr. Attorney. I profess you begin well; and Wire-draw to a Miracle; but if I never heard of any, it will not follow, but there may be many. Neither will it follow, that if former Acts of Parliament have been eluded, another may not be drawn up, that may defy Elusion. Proper Penalties, upon proper Parties, may do much. Disqualifications, Loss of Place, or Loss of Honour, will be apt to have more Influence than the sordid Insinuations of petty *Lucre*, or *Mammon*; and the Laws, being no longer liable to Misconstruction, Penalties will appear so plain, that to play with them, will be like playing with Wild-Fire. I will hope too the same Caution and Prudence in the *Legislature*, will take care to put it out of the Power of either Lawyer, or Attorney, to
tell

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tell his Client, he never will be concern'd in Penal Acts. If he will not do his Duty one way, 'tis my Opinion, he ought to be de-barr'd doing it another. A *Quietus*, under an Act of Parliament, will soon let him into the Value of it, and demonstrate they are not made, like *Tennis Balls*, for sporting.

Sea. I find you would be a perfect *Cato*, in Principle and Practice: But pray tell me how would you go about this Regulation in Question?

Tru. I would first begin at the Catchpole, Marshal's-Court Officer, or Bailiff, or the like, by whatsoever scandalous Name or Title undignify'd, tho' sufficiently distinguish'd. And, First, to prevent the longer Oppression of the Subject by their vile Exactions and Impositions, I could wish that the good old Usage, by Way of Summons, might be again restor'd; which, if I mistake not, Judge *Jenkins*, in a little Treatise that I once had a Sight of, mightily laments in his Time the Disuse of. Let the Penalties on Non-Appearance be as large as they please, so it takes off the Fury of the Savage, and leaves innocent Tradesmen free of their exorbitant Demands for Arrests, and Civility Money, and does not necessitate the Unhappy to spend more Money in a vile Spunging-House, than would pay the original Debt; which often is the Case——

Sea.

Sea. I like all this wonderful well; and I cannot think that *Skinall*, or any one, could make any Objection to any Part of it.

Tru. Oh! you are mistaken in Mankind: The Interests of Catchpole and Attorney are often so interwove, that they knap one another, like two Horses in a full Pasture.

Sea. And don't they, like those Horses, knap one another till they fall out?

Tru. O-Yes; and then they are both call'd Rogues, and the worst Word in the Mouth is too good for either, till a new Occasion, and then *Herod* and *Pilate* never were greater. But I go on: This Way of proceeding would put an End to their brutish Insults upon those, who are so miserable to fall into their Clutches, whom now they use just as they themselves deserve to be us'd; and ought to be us'd by Men of Spirit and Honour.

Sea. But how would you, then, dispose of all this Trash and Lumber of the Nation?

Tru. A necessary Consideration; for neither Army nor Fleet will receive them. Have we not new Plantations: Or, if they are so nice to refuse 'em, as I have heard they wisely have done at *Georgia*; where is it you transport all your Felons and Pick-pockets? Perhaps they will make no Objection.

Sea. But what would you do for the Sheriffs, who make Money of their Places?

Tru. What would I do? as was done in former Times, before *Latitats* and *Capias's* were

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were so much in Fashion. But sure the very Name of Sheriff is sufficient to answer the Question. A Sheriff is a Post of Dignity and Power: No little Fellow, or Person of inconsiderable Quality, can be suppos'd to be nominated; since, in the Counties, the Judges return three, out of which the King chooses one: In the City of *London* and County of *Middlesex*, two are elected by the Livery-Men. Can it be suppos'd, in Reason, that Men of that Repute, and so chose, would, for any selfish, or private Ends, ever oppose any thing for the publick Good? The City of *London* has given many recent Instances to the contrary: And, I dare aver, in this Respect, their Example would be universal. But nothing of this Nature can be propos'd to be effectual, but in Parliament.

Sea. I will not pretend to say, as *Skinall* seem'd to insinuate, that your Cause is desperate on such a Dependance: On the contrary, I am apt to hope, that, if the Parliament was made thoroughly sensible of the Necessity, or Convenience of such a Regulation, they would heartily enter into it; tho', I am satisfy'd, it would meet with a great deal of Opposition.

Try. From what Quarter, I wonder! You cannot imagine that the Catchpoles have any Interest or Influence?

Sea.

Sea. You forget, Truman, what you intimated just now, that the Interest of the Bailiff and Attorney are often interwoven.

Tru. Right: And, therefore, before I give you a categorical Answer, I will go on to the Attorney, and couple them as lastly, as they do Mastives in the Bear-Garden. I will begin with the Cub, just out of his Clogship, who, to get him a Name, fishes for Clients, as ingenious Anglers for Gudgeons, in troubled Waters: And, to be sure, the little Gentleman will make his early Efforts, with all the little Tricks and Quirks, the Practice of his Master has furnish'd him. If he meets with a Client, Master of a little Civility or Humanity, he is himself complaisant, and complies with him to write a Letter, for which, tho' but of the Length of two Lines, he is sure to charge three Shillings and four Pence; which as assuredly must be paid, or worse follows. But if he meets with one that is as little a Lover of Ceremony, as himself, he takes care to settle his Interest with a good Serjeant or Catchpole, that will be Rascally, and have no Mercy, but carry him directly to Jail, or his own House, which is worse.

Sea. Hold, Truman, I must stop you in your Career. Is there not an Act of Parliament, that has impos'd a Penalty on all such Offenders?

Tru. Very true: But, for all that, such Offenders are as common, as the Calamities.

What

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What do you talk of Acts of Parliament? to such People! Tho' they are oblig'd to carry a Clause of one in their Pockets, their Interest obliges them to make no other Use of it, but to shew it; unless it be to shew their Disregard to it in all their future Actions—

Ser. But the Penalty, as I remember, is so large, that, methinks, that should deter 'em. *Ans.* But, methinks, you are in the wrong to think any such Thing; for that saves 'em. The great Men of the Profession think, out of a Tenderness and Fellow-feeling, that it would be too severe to punish any Man for a small Roguery, as they interpret it; and therefore they refuse to be concern'd: And the little ones are so afraid, that it will endanger their Reputation with those Hangers of Clients, that they tremble at the very Thought of it: or, if any have been drawn in, as they call it, to prosecute, it is only to get out of the Pockets of their Client, the Prosecutor, so much as to disable him for beginning again: for, on some Threats from the Catchpole, I have known 'em throw up the Cause the very Day of Hearing.

Ser. But is there no Remedy for such Rogueries?

Ans. Not as yet: But let me go on. When the Defendant is lodg'd, or, as they call it, in *salva Custodia* (which, bad as it is, is almost the only good *Latin* they have in their Budgets) the unfortunate Person is advis'd

by the good-natur'd Host (as his own better Nature is mislead to esteem him) to send for the Attorney of the Plaintiff; there is Three and four Pence for that, and, perhaps, a Sneaker of Punch; if likely to make an End, two. But before an End is made, there shall be sure to be three or four more like Attendances; which, with the Expences of the Place, never inconsiderable, and, last of all, Civility-Money, the Debt must be pretty considerable, to exceed the Charges: And if made up by paying Half down, and a Note, or Security, for the rest, if his past Sufferings do not render him very careful, the same Lobs-pound over again is sure to be his Fortune.

Sea. But what if they are so strait-lac'd as not to make it up with the Defendant, on any Terms? Do not such Cases sometimes happen?

Tru. O, frequently; and the Jail is the Consequence. But that seldom is his Lot, till he is truly qualify'd for it, by having spent all the Money he can rap and rend in the Catchpole's Castle; and he will then be sure to send him away in his own Defence: For they, as well as their elder Brethren, are no Lovers of *pauper* Clients. I know an Attorney of very great Fame, and in the City, who had taken of his Client upwards of two hundred Pounds, and, at last, let him drop, for Want of advancing forty Shillings.
But

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But there is one Piece of Roguery, which, I think, I shall be forc'd to, acquit their Masters the Attorneys of; and that is what they call, searching the Office, to see if any other Action is enter'd against the Defendant, before he be discharg'd. Under this Pretence, I have heard of a diligent Diuel, that, instead of the Office, has search'd among all the poor Man's Acquaintance, to see if he can bound any other on; and his Diligence was attended with such Success, that, by first persuading one, and then another, he kept him ten Days in Play, and, at last, forc'd him to come down, in Civility Money, equal to the first Debt.

Sea. But you have acquitted the Attorney, of this Piece of Villany.

Tru. Yes, Yes: there is no need of loading them with what is not all their own. And we now are come to that Part of the Proceedings in Law, which I should think most nobly would demand the Enquiry of a Committee. Little Roguries are now of small Account: they would here find enough to put all such quite out of Countenance. Term Fees, Rules for better Bail, Coppies, and Service, over and over repeated, and a hundred other like Articles, only tending to delay, and enhance the Charge, together with Affidavits, Copies and Service, Declarations, and a Multitude of other Articles, some of 'em inconsistent with the other, make

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make up every Attornies Bill : and can any Man make me believe, that it is not in the Power of reasonable Men, to find out a shorter Way to Right, or make it easier to arrive at, by cutting off ten thousand needless and superfluous Charges?

Sea. I need not tell you that every Client has it in his Power to tax his Lawyer's Bill.

Tru. But if it is needless to tell you, it is necessary to tell others, the Fallacy of that Relief. If the Bill is small, tho' never so roundly charg'd, it is like cracking a Nut without a Kernel. No Man yet ever found the Play would pay the Candle. This gives petty Rascals a Sanction, tho' against Authority. And even in a large Bill, the Charge is so great, and often made greater, by Delays, and Attendancies, that wise Men, not seldom choose to sit down by the first Loss rather than run the Risque of a second : For he must be sensible that Brothers of the Quill love to claw, rather than scratch one another. They take care to have their Nails par'd, when they go about that Work.

Sea. It is well for you, *Truman*, that *Skinall* was not here, you would have quite divested him of Patience.

Tru. On the contrary I am sorry for his Absence: the answering his Objections, would perhaps have let us into new Scenes of Practice

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Practice, and consequently have enlarg'd the Field of Action.

Sea. Well, if you have no more to say to the Attorney : What say you to the Barister.

Tru. That many of 'em are very worthy Gentlemen, and some of 'em very honest. They do not all take Fees, on both sides ; nor do they all clope the Cause of their Clients. I know a few that exert themselves in a pauper Cause, as much as most would do for a round Fee, and I believe are ten times more joyful when victorious. This brings to my Mind a Passage between the Silver-tongu'd *Finch* and *Ward*, who was then Attorney General. They had been Opposites in a Cause at the Bar of the House of Lords, and *Finch* had us'd his Opponent with a little more than ordinary Spirit ; when they withdrew into the little Room, leaving the Lords under Debate, *Ward* complain'd to *Finch* of his Zeal, saying, He pleaded as if he was a Party. No, reply'd he, I pleaded heartily, because it was an honest Cause. I am sorry you cannot say so much of yours, because then more might have been said for what you did say. If every Council would take the same Care, and behave himself with the same Integrity, do you think it would not disarm that common Sarcastm, that they pleaded for their Pay?

Sea. That is a vulgar Piece of Satire: How should they know what the Cause is, till heard?

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heard? Do not the Attornies, or Sollicitors, provide them with Briefs suitable to their several Interests?

Tru. As you said just now, It is well *Skinall* is not here to hear you. But yet in their Practice there are two Things, in which, in my Opinion, they are very much wanting to their Character; and, I am confident, you will agree with me.

Sea. What are those, I beseech you?

Tru. The first is, that, to shew the Brightness of their Parts, few of them even vouchsafe to look upon their Briefs, till the Cause is call'd: and some of them look upon it as an Affront, to be ask'd to peruse 'em before. Now I cannot but think it very hard, that a Client's All, perhaps, should depend upon any Man's Self-Capacioufness. In some Cases there are Intricacies which require sedate Consideration: In all Cases, there is somewhat worthy of some provisional Preparation; for as the Quirks of Attornies (which have obtain'd so much as to be call'd Quirks in Law) are notorious, an honest Mind would be prepar'd to ward against 'em, which cannot well be done without well conning over the Brief.

Sea. In that I entirely agree with you. What is the other?

Tru. Their too frequent Abuse of good Language in their Pleadings. A Man with a natural Wig, in which he takes more Pains
to

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to disguise himself, than a Highwayman, in an artificial one may indulge himself in those Forensial Liberties; but every Thing of a Gentleman would consider, that, tho' the Court may not care to expose him by a Rebuke, his every Outrage rebukes the Court for their Indulgence. Besides, what can be more ridiculous among Men of Sense, than, while they are engag'd in another Man's Cause, they should suffer their personal Reflections to ridicule their own Arguments. I confess, a smart Repartee upon a fallacious Way of Reasoning, or a handsome Retort of a Mis-application; or when Words are stretch'd beyond their Meaning to wrest the Sense of the Court the wrong Way, to rectify the intended Abuse, in a modest Way, becoming a Gentleman, in my Opinion, is not only allowable, but commendable. It keeps the Court from sleeping, and puts the Council, on both Sides, upon minding what they are upon; in which Case, the Client is not like to fare the worse on either Side. But Noise and Scurrility are so very shocking, that it is not to be borne from any, but such as are willing to plead they cannot help it. And tho' the Practisers aim, in their Use of 'em, to recommend themselves to others for those false Perfections, where it once hits, it twenty times misses; and few Courts, besides those of *Whitechapel* and the *Marshalsea*, but will imagine it more redounding to their Honour,

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nour, as well as Quiet, to stifle, than encourage them.

Sea. I agree with you, in the main, here too.

Tru. And why, in the main? Why not in the whole? What can you object?

Sea. That it is not so in all Courts.

Tru. I grant you, in some Courts it is more so than in others: But there are some, in all Courts, that by an unmannerly Freedom depreciate their Dignity.

Sea. Take care you don't make it the Fault of the Judges.

Tru. Let the Judges take care they make it not so: It is their Business, not mine. I only desire a Decorum may be paid, where Persons of their Gravity sit to do Justice. Even a *Powis*, a *Bury*, or ——— any other Judge ought to exact Respect, in that Place, both from Client and Council. I remember a Knight Baronet in *Lincolnshire* once struck a Judge upon the Bench, and was immediately committed for it: Nor would Judge *Halt* (who was the other Judge) consent to his Liberty, till he had, in open Court, ask'd Pardon of the Judge affronted, tho' the Grand-jury, and the best of the Gentlemen of the County, interceded for him under an Affidavit of Lunacy: For he rightly asserted, that the King, in the Commission, receiv'd the Affront. But he has been dead a great many Years.

Sea.

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Sea. Since you are upon the Judges, what have you to say to them.

Tru. I wish them Health, Happiness, and Honour, which is the Establishment of the other two. And if you have any Thing more to wish, I leave it to the Affluence of your Ingenuity: Unless they and you will give me Leave to wish, that they would heartily fall in with what *Bacon*, *Hales*, and *Holt* wish'd, a Reduction of the Laws; and, like Men of true Probity and Character, recommend it to the Care of the King, as the greatest Glory that can possibly attend his Reign. And, on this Consideration, what Ministry that had any hearty Good-will for their Sovereign, separate from their own private Views, would be wanting to lend a helping Hand?

Sea. But, see, who comes here?

Sk. So, Gentlemen; you are at it still: What! have you not settled this doughty Point yet? Sure enough, *Truman* has made a thorough Convert of you, Mr. *Seafon*.

Sea. That he might easily do, having not proper Arms to defend myself. But now you are come to insist me your Second, I fear him not.

Tru. *Skinall* would have you to know, he needs no Second. Besides, 'twere against the Law of Arms to desire a Second, without allowing one.

Sk.

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Sk. For my Part, I always had an Aversion to dry Controversy. If you will go take a Bottle, I am ready to enter the Lists, and set at Defiance *Truman*, and all his Partisans, in Defence of the present Practice of all, or any of, our Courts.

Tru. Nothing would engage me sooner, than such a bold Challenge; and to shew it, *Mr. Seaton*, I here exchange Gloves.

Sk. *Allons, Messieurs.*—— A clear Stage, and no Favour.

Sea. You chose me Umpire at first: Take notice I attend in the same Station; and, as *Virgil* says, *He that bears the Bell, shall have the Beechen Cup and Oaten Reed.*

End of the First DIALOGUE.



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DIALOGUE



DIALOGUE II.

Sea.



ELL, Gentlemen, how do you like your Wine?

Sk. Excellent good, I think it is.

Tr. I am of the same Opinion.

Sea. That's well. May you agree in your Sentiments of the Law as in this.

Tr. Our Sentiments of the Law we shall not much differ in: But that is not the Thing in Dispute; the Practice of the Courts is what we are now to enter upon. What Court do you chuse first, *Skinnall*?

Sk. *King's-Bench* or *Common-Pleas*, I am of both.

Tr. We shall stumble, I fear, at setting out: For I object against any Man's being enter'd of two different Courts. My Reason is this, Their Practice is so different, that if he be a Man of large Business, he may chance to confound one with the other, to the Detriment of his Client, and, like an Apothecary's Prentice, thro' Ignorance or Carelessness, administer Poison instead of Medicine.

WUOJIAI

Sk.

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Sk. What a fine Objection you have made? Would you punish a Majority for the Blunders of one Particular?

Tr. I would ward against the Blunders of any, in Cases of such great Concern as Men's Properties.

Sk. That we may go on, I wave one of 'em. Will that please you? Begin with the Court of *King's-Bench*.

Tr. To begin regularly, I'll imagine you vastly civil to your own Interest, and that you have wrote a Letter to the Party you are imploy'd to sue; for which you charge three Shillings and four-pence.

Sk. Civility is worth nothing with you sure, if you scruple so small a Tax.

Tr. A Tax that never was allow'd till of late, is an Imposition; which our Endeavours are to prevent.

Sk. Come, we'll leave that to the Decision of the Master. Go on to the *Latitat*.

Tr. Not so fast, *Skinall*. Look over your Bill, and you'll find many Charges preceding, *viz.* taking Instructions (tho' deliver'd into your Hands) and perusing many Papers of the Case, Note, &c. tho' very often the whole Detail amounts to no more than the Note or Bond you sue upon; to which it is forty to one, but you must add a Charge of more Letters, and calling on the Defendant for Answer, &c. But these are the Buckram, Canvas and Stay-tape of your Trade.

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Sk. Would you have Men waste Time and Pains for nothing?

Tr. Have a little Patience. Then comes the *Latitat*, and Copy and Service in an aggregate Sum, and the Term-Fee, like a prudent General, brings up the Rear?

Sk. Well, and what have you to say against all this?

Tr. Only this; That by the original good old Way of Summons (as Judge *Jenkins* has manifested) about forty Shillings Expence would be sav'd to the poor Defendant, who, perhaps, by his present Necessities is oblig'd to defend himself, where he had rather discharge: But this, by the Way, is taking Matters in the fairest Light: For if it so happens, that the Defendant falls into the Hands of a Cub, the Charge is enlarg'd; the Catch-pole joins in the Pillage, and in Attendancies and Expences, if the Debt is not very large, it is exceeded by their Bills of Fare, at the Bailiffs, or a Spunging-House, which is often one and the same. All which would be prevented in the old Way.

Sk. Pshaw, Pshaw. The old Way was a foolish Way. Our Fore-fathers knew nothing of the Matter.

Tr. Our Fore-fathers, *Skinall*, study'd more to preserve than oppress. If their Posterity would take a little Pains to enquire into Matters, they would find Reason to be asham'd that

that they had cast such laudable Patterns behind their Backs.

Sk. If my Head does not ache till you obtain your Remedy, I shall have no Reason to complain. Proceed.

Tr. I must next observe, that every Term produces a new Charge, tho' for the same Thing over again. Taking Instructions, drawing Declarations, special State of the Case, perusing, engrossing, filing, Duty and Warrant of Attorney, together with the Gentleman in Arrear, Term-Fee, make up about three Pounds more, in order to lye over till next Recruit of as much more.

Sk. And how, in your vast Wisdom, would you avoid all this?

Tr. My little Wisdom, if you please, tells me, that this might, in a great Measure, be avoided, by finding out a more expeditious Road to Trial; and not allow Causes to lie like Nest Eggs to breed more.

Sk. Expedition? a pretty Expedient? What, I warrant you would have Forms and Decorums laid aside? and do as the Demsters in the Isle of *Man*, bring a Cause on to Hearing, and determine it the next Day?

Tr. And where would be the Harm to the Nation, if we were under that happy State? The Harpies would not hover over our Houses as they do; and honest People might eat their Bread in more Quiet.

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Sk. Speak to him, Mr. *Season*, the Man's beside himself.

Sea. Shall I say to him, as *Festus* did to *Paul*? Too much Learning has made him mad.

Tru. Do; and I'll return you *Paul's* Answer, What a monstrous Thing is it, that, in this Age, a Man can no sooner set himself towards the Redress of Evils and Grievances, but he is sure to be represented as a Lunatick, and a Commission is voted against him? But generous Minds will ever despise such low Artifices. Reason, and Good Sense, are not to be bugbear'd with Bullying, or Slander.

Sk. Come, I'll raise your Gaul no more: Will you proceed? or have you done?

Tru. The poor and mean Artifices of most Attornies, of tricking and taking Advantages, I pass by —

Sk. Why, sure all Advantages against an Enemy, are lawful?

Tru. It is true, I take the State of the Law to be a true State of War, where Stratagems may evince the General, equally with Prowess. But where those little Tricks and Advantages are only taken to prolate the Cause, and enlarge the Expence both of Plaintiff and Defendant, in my Opinion, the sooner they are castrated, the better; especially when taken in Favour of Wrong, to the Oppression of Right.

Sk.

Sk. If wrong taken, the Injur'd will have his Redress in Damages.

Tru. And how much will that amount to, *Skinall*? Twelve-Pence in the Pound? Just like the poor Widow, who, for calling a real Rogue of a Lawyer, a hard Name, had Two-Pence Damages given against her, which carry'd Costs, that oblig'd her to sell her Bed from under her. But we are not arriv'd at that Point yet— After three or four Terms are spent, every one attended with many other Charges as impertinent as Term Fees, we come to seem to be somewhat in earnest; and now we find the Charge of Rule to plead, calling for the Plea, drawing Issue, and Copy, entering on the Roll, Notice of Trial, and Service, and some pretended Fingle-Fangle or another for a Countermand, and the old veteran Term-Fee, making together, if modestly charg'd, about three Pounds more, for the Advantage of lying over for the subsequent Term for a Charge *de novo* of the same over again.

Sk. Why you are a strange unreasonable Man, *Truman*: Would you have People work for nothing?

Tru. By no Means, Mr. *Skinall*: But I would have it so order'd, that they should not work their Clients out of their Breeches, to make them embroider'd Waistcoats. Notice of Trial was given last Term; but on a pretended Countermand, because the Attor-

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ney was not ready, it is now to be given again, attended with drawing Cafes for Council, and their Opinion thereupon, drawing Declaration, Council to peruse it, and Attendances upon it, ingrossing, continuing, and filing Warrant of Attorney, Notice of Declaration left in the Office, and, finally, beloved Term-Fee, in all amounting to between four and five Pounds more; and yet oblig'd to lie over to the Term following.

Sk. Well, and all this may be reasonable enough.

Tru. That we are not come to dispute yet. Let us go on with our Charges. And, first, there is for Rule to plead, calling for Plea, attending on Judge and on Plaintiff for fresh Instructions, Bill of Costs for Defendant and Attendances thereon, drawing Issue, ingrossing and entering, Notice of Trial, Copy and Service, Brief for Trial and Copy, Copies for Council, Attendances and Term-Fee again; amounting to (over and above Councils Fees) five Pounds ten Shillings.

Sk. Still this may be all very reasonable.

Tru. For that I know we shall in course be referr'd to the Master. But, in the mean Time, give me Leave to appeal to the sensible Part of Mankind, Whether a less chargeable, and nearer Way to Right, may not very easily be come at, by the Interposition of our Superiors; for we are not yet half Seas over. Now comes Instructions over again,

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gain, Writ of *Capias* and Service, Search for Appearance, attending again for Instructions, drawing Declaration and Copy, Council perusing the same, attending him thereon, Warrant of Attorney, Porters, and Term-Fee again ; amounting in all to four Pounds five Shillings.

Sk. What paltry Lawyer's Hands are you got into? You charge many Things twice over.

Tru. So, I am apt to think, many beside him do. But, I assure you, I quote from a topping Lawyer, and give you his identical *Items*. But tho' you seem to have enough, I must give you much more ; and yet not come to Trial in a Term or two.

Sea. Bless me ! how many Terms would you have before Trial ?

Tru. That is not in my Power, Mr. *Season*, either to resolve on, or name : You must ask my Attorney ; and he, perhaps, if he dare tell you the whole Truth, would say, That's as he, and the Attorney of the Defendant, can agree upon the Matter. 'However, to end that Dispute, we'll suppose the two Champions have agreed between themselves, that they have pretty well plunder'd the Pockets of their Clients, and therefore think proper to come to a closer Engagement (for you will find all before was but skir-mishing)——

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Sk. One would think thou wast bred under some *Wapping* Attorney, *Truman*.

Tru. Or that some *Wapping* Attorney was for the Defendant: Put it that Way, if you will; and only allow that they can shew no Feats of Dexterity, but what an Attorney of the *King's Bench* will readily embrace, and that will do my Business; because you know then you may legally (and, *in prima facie*, honestly) plead *se defendendo*.

Sk. Would you have me leave my Client open to the Attacks of his Enemy?

Tru. O, by no means! that were abominable of all Abominables, especially as it is likely to conduce so much to your own Emolument. And that, you know, *Skinall*, is a Consideration of no little Weight, both in Law and Gospel.

Sk. How hard a Case is the Attornies! If he defends his Client, he must be blam'd; and if he does not, he is condemn'd without arraigning.

Tru. Rather, how hard is the Case of the poor Client? If he gets his Cause, he loses; and if he loses it, he is lost himself. But the main Point is secur'd, however; for the Lawyer is sure to get, let the Client get or lose.

Sk. Go on to your Trial, and, if you will; or drink your Wine, and let's be gone.

Tru. Don't be uneasy, *Skinall*: You know what you promis'd Mr. *Seafon*; That you would keep your Temper,

Sk.

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Sk. Temper! how can any Man keep his Temper, and see a Bird bewray his own Nest? I am a sham'd on't.

Sea. You mistake your Point, *Mr. Skinall*; your Eyes are troubled causelessly, and, therefore, inoffensively offended.

Sk. How so? I am sure he was bred to the Law.

Tru. That he might be; and, like many others of his Brethren, no Lawyer neither. Take the Case right, and you will find it thus: He saw so much of the Law (don't skoul, *Skinall*) during his Clerkship, that it gave him a Surfeit, which the whole College is not able to cure him of.

Sk. Meer Whimsies all. You might have liv'd as well as any Man, and ha' got as much Money. I am sure I have heard your Master say, you was the prettiest Clerk he ever had.

Tru. I am oblig'd to him for his good Opinion: But shall we go on?

Sk. Go on! for what? Do you think I'll waste my Time to talk with a Man that professes himself no Lawyer? It is casting Pearls before Swine.

Tru. Honour that pretty Clerk you spoke of, with a little more of your Patience and Conversation. Who knows but you may reform him?

Sk. I'd as soon undertake a Jew or a Quaker.

Sea.

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Sea. Try him a little, *Skinall*: Methinks, I read Conversion in his Countenance.

Sk. When a fat Benefice won't make him conform—

Sea. Try him with a Bishoprick— That never miscarry'd with the most harden'd, or the most rigidly scrupulous.

Sk. Shall I hear our Mysteries expos'd? and our Justice arraign'd as injurious?

Tru. Neither, upon my Word; if you'll but grant me one modest Request—

Sk. Pray, give us a Test of that Modesty.

Tru. Grant me but that the Law may be mended, the Proceedings shorten'd, and the Expences lessen'd; and—

Sk. A fine Test of your Modesty! Here are three Requests in one; and, I suppose, had I let you have gone on, it would have not ended in Half a Dozen more.

Tru. They are all but one and the same, *Skinall*; for, if the Law was mended, the other two would fall in course: And, under such a Regulation, no Man need be ashamed to be—

Sk. Look you now, Mr. *Season*— he is at it again—

Sea. Hands off, *Truman*—let us proceed soberly— for I find Mr. *Skinall* grants your *Postulatum*.

Sk. Why, I'll never deny a Thing that no-body can deny. I with his Ingenuity could as easily find out the Method.

Tru.

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Tru. That I'll undertake, if you'll be as ready to pursue the Method, when pointed out to you.

Sk. Without more Prefaces, let us hear it.

Tru. You will hardly deny, *Skinall* (for I think you have in Part confess'd it) that there are some Professors of the Law, in all its Branches, that are no great Credit or Honour to the rest.

Sk. Don't wiredraw me into Confessions, *Mr. Truman*. When did I confess it?

Tru. In asking me, what paltry Lawyer's Hands I was got into? and whether I was not bred under some *Wapping* Attorney?

Sea. Billa vera both, *Skinall*.

Sk. Pshaw, you catch at Words — But, come, I'll grant it.

Tru. That the Practices of those Underlings, to call 'em favourably, have brought a Disreputation upon the fair Practisers (as they call themselves, and I would willingly believe 'em) you cannot deny any more than the other —

Sk. But I cannot see with what Shew of Reason —

Tru. Have Patience, and perhaps I may open your Eyes — If an unfortunate Man (doubly unfortunate in that) has fallen into the Hands of one of these Law Sharppers, and makes his Complaint; what Remedy has he?

Sk. He may summon him afore a Judge —

Tru.

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Tru. But *in ordine ad*: If he applies to what you call a fair Practiser in the Law, he shall answer you very readily, Why, ay, he knows the Fellow to be Rogue enough; but he must beg your Pardon, he does not care to expose a Brother——

Sk. Pshaw — These are Objections of your own forming.

Tru. No, *Skinall*: These are Objections that have often offended my own Ears; and, therefore, not of my own forming. And, I believe, I may venture to defy you to give an Instance of any of the numberless Offenders that Way, that ever was under Prosecution.

Sk. I can say nothing to that Matter; it never fell under my Practice.

Tru. But you must grant, that it is no fair Practice in a fair Practiser, to leave a Man under Oppression, when apply'd to for Assistance and Advice. And I will maintain, it is neither to their Honour, nor Profit — Not to their Honour, since the Disinclination to prosecute can be esteem'd no other than a Connivance: Not to their Profit—— because if Half a Hundred Knaves were thrown over the Bar every Term, it is to be hop'd there would remain fair Practisers enough to go on with Business, and they would, consequently, have better Business themselves.

Sk. I

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Sk. I confess, this is the most feasible Part of your Scheme, that I have yet heard ; and I like it.

Tru. Besides, *Skinall*, this would make a rational Distinction, and convince the World they are in the wrong, to deal away Characters by the Lump.

Sk. I agree with you there too. But the Remedy—— that's the Question——

Tru. If their own Inclinations will not lead 'em to Acts of Justice, I think they ought to be punish'd as Delinquents ; and on the fair Oath before a Judge of any such Refusal, the Refuser to be laid aside for ever : For he that refuses to do Justice to the Injur'd, can never be deem'd worthy the Countenance of any Court in Christendom.

Sea. But may not this encourage frivolous Complaints against the fair Practisers ? for I must needs confess, there are some Clients more litigious than their Lawyers themselves.

Tru. Not at all. As to the first, the Judge, upon a Chamber Examination, will easily discern the Validity of the Complaint, in both Respects ; and he will, by granting his Summons to the prime Offender, do Justice, as well as punish ; which is suitable to the Character of every Judge—— As to the second, tho' I agree with you there are many Clients more litigious than their own Lawyers, and who, from that very Spirit, will often push 'em on to do Things extrajudicially ; I would have

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have all such liable to the same Indictment, as Persons prosecuted illegally at the *Old Bailey*: Not exempting, however, any Lawyer who sinn'd against Knowledge.

Sk. By what Law, I pray?

Tru. Is not that begging the Question, *Skinall*? What are we upon, but a new Law for Regulation of Law Proceedings? And is not the Design of that to provide for Defects, as well as to lessen Charges?

Sk. I did not think I should ever have agreed with you so far as I have done. However, if you had not said it, I could hardly have believ'd, that any of my Brethren would have declin'd a good Cause upon a meet Scruple of Honour and Conscience.

Tru. What will you say, then, to those who have refus'd to be concern'd against a Catchpole?

Sk. Do you know any such?

Tru. Yes, and topping Men too, that call themselves fair Practisers into the Bargain.

Sk. What Reason, I wonder, could they assign?

Tru. The very Reason that should have engag'd 'em in it; because it was upon a penal Act. What Pity it was that there was not a Penalty, in the same Act, upon the refusing fair Practiser! As if the Validity of Acts of Parliament were to be limited by their private Interests and Opinions! Is not this

this to tell the Wisdom of the Nation plainly, they did not know what they did ;

Sk. I confess it is somewhat like it. But how would you prevent it ?

Tru. As in the other Case : For tho' Relation may make the Case somewhat alike (as being all Brothers of the Quill :) there is this apparent Difference in this Case, as being a voluntary Transgression against an Act of Parliament, a Clause of which they are particularly careful always to carry in their Pockets. And now, by this Means, having laid a Foundation for the better Regulations of such as are truly, and, in fact, fair Practisers, if you please, we will go on with our Cause in Court.

Sk. But before that, pray answer one Question ; Would you oblige those refusing Attornies to go on without Assets ?

Tru. Far from it. Provided, as I have known the Case more than once, that the Attorney does not demand more than is sufficient, and, when he has got it, spend it before the Cause comes on ; by which Disappointment the Cause shall be forc'd to lye over at last, if ever either Lawyer or Client shall be in a Capacity to revive it.

Sk. These are calamitous Cases ; and such Knaves deserve to be severely handled. But I know of no such——

Tru. But I am sorry to say, I do.

Sk. I

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Sk. I confess, *Truman*, you have so far won upon me, that I will hear with Patience; only give me Leave to object with Reason.

Tru. Truth forbids my Denial of any such reasonable Request: Objections are the Sinews of Argument; and, when unanswerable, are Argument itself.

Sea. So, then! Instead of a Duel, I find this is like to be a Consort; where some Discord is necessary, to make the Musick more perfect. *Αρχὴν Βυζαντίου*, says the Poet.

Tru. I go on with my Bill of Fare. Instructions again, Rule to plead, calling for Plea and Note, drawing Issue, paid Enttring, ingrossing on Roll, Dogget and Examining, Notice of Trial, Copy and Service, continuing Notice, Search for *Latitat*, Judge's Summons, Copy and Service, attending Judge, Lawyer attending, Judge's Orders, Copy and Service, attending at Office to see if Writ was brought, Sheriff's Fee, paid Tresfory Fees, attending thereon, the like again, containing Notice, drawing Brief for Trial, three fair Copies, attending Witnesses several times, the like again, *Subpanas* for Witnesses, four Tickets, serving Witnesses, paid them with the Tickets, *Venire facias*, Return thereof and attending, *Habeas Corpus*, Return thereof, Enttring Cause, ingrossing Record, Sealing Record, Fee attending passing Record, going after one of the Witnesses, drawing Affidavit of his being out of the Way, Duty and Oaths,

at-

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attending Court to put off Cause, Council for Motion and Term Fee; amounting, in all, to Fourteen Pounds, Sixteen Shillings and Two-pence.

Sea. Could not you have abated the odd Two-pence, *Truman*?

Tru. It is Part of my Bill, Sir; and I love to go with Record.

Sk. Your Bill! Sure 'tis the Devil of a Cause. Have you done yet?

Tru. You know better than that, *Skinall*: You see my chief Witness was got out of the Way, and for that Reason the Cause was put off. No, Sir, there is a Necessity for one, or more, Term-Fees, before we shall have done. What think you, in the mean Time, if we take a Glass to our better Success?

Sea. With all my Heart—— Here, *Skinall*, they say Sorrow is dry — I am afraid the poor Plaintiff is so dry, he will want two Glasses.

Sk. I'd allow the Attorney three, to make him move faster.

Tru. Half a Dozen would not bribe him; because, he'll tell you, he can afford to treat you with a Bottle or two, if the Cause is kept off.

Sk. If you have any more, pray let us have it.

Tru. A small Article of Contingencies, amounting, with Term-Fee, to One Pound Sixteen Shillings.

Sk.

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Sk. But why don't you go on with the Cause?

Tru. Because, as the Plaintiff acquaints me, his Lawyer demands near Twenty Pounds to defray fresh Charges, besides Councils Fees, before he will proceed.

Sk. Twenty Pounds! Why, in conscionable Hands, Half the Money would have decided the Matter from first to last.

Tru. I am pretty near of your Opinion, *Skinall*: And yet, in the old Way, a fourth Part of that would have done the Business. Can you object, then, against a Regulation? Would it be to your Dishonour, to have such Harpies struck off your List? Or, if you refer me to a Taxation, let me ask you soberly, what do you think the Master would cut off?

Sk. Perhaps more than a Third Part; and then you know the Consequence.

Tru. Perhaps not a Tenth Part; and then let me return the Consequence upon you. Have I not already told you, and demonstrated, how chary the Lawyers are of the Interests of one another? Insomuch that a Client seldom gets any thing more by such an Appeal, but the further little Satisfaction of paying further Costs.

Sk. Well, and after all, *Truman*, how would you redress all this?

Tru. I am glad to hear that you think there is Occasion for Redress: And when a
Com-

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Committee of our Superiors comes to examine more closely into Matters, I am very well satisfy'd they will not only be sensible of the Necessity, but set about it, and find out Ways and Means. Some weak People make Bugbears of the great Interest the Lawyers have in the House, and that they depend upon the Zeal of their Brethren there; it has been said too, that such disinterested Gentlemen have often before thrown in Bars to all such Proceedings, and have render'd 'em of little Effect hitherto. I can hardly be persuaded to believe it: Sure I am, if I was one of those honourable Gentlemen, tho' the House should not think fit to seclude me from the Committee, I would take care to seclude myself, to avoid all such Sarcasms for the future; which, if just, must be allow'd to be of the vilest Nature. Men of Sense will consider, that in such Cases they oppose the Voice and publick Good of a Nation, and that for Posterity, for a few trifling and temporary Advantages, that must determine with their own short Lives. And it can never enter into my Head, that any Man of common Penetration would impede the Redress of publick Grievances, for a Trifle of private Lucre.

Sea. Will you go on now with the other Courts? or will you adjourn to another Day.

Tru. As

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Tru. As *Skinall* pleases ; for I am prepar'd.
But your Question seems to lead to an Ad-
journment.

Sk. With all my Heart ; it grows late.
But pray, *Truman*, against that Day provide
yourself with Bills more favourable.

Tru. I shall provide myself with none, but
what are already provided for me. You know
who are my Cooks, and therefore must con-
tent yourself with your Fare. When do you
agree to meet?

Sk. Let it be this Day Sevensnight : I will
set it apart.

Sea. Be it so. Here, Drawer, take your
Reckoning.

